

WINONA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



Newsletter November 2024



Thank You!
Thank You!
Thank You!
WinHort!



Our 95th Birthday Party and D6 Fall Dinner was a resounding success! Your generosity, your hard work and your joyful participation allowed WinHort to shine brightly!



With Flapper Fran and Dapper Dan (Thank you Joy), yummy cupcakes (Thank you Anna) and our very own Eric as speaker, WinHort Members were brilliant!



Thank You!
Thank You!
Thank you!



133 people attended our 95th Birthday party and are looking forward to the next one!

**Well done
WinHort!**

Hélène & Greta
20 November 2024

Notices and Events

ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS

680 Plains Road, Burlington

Winter Wonders – December 5 to January 5 Thursdays to Sundays

Experience the magic of the season at Royal Botanical Garden's *Winter Wonders*! Hendrie Park transforms into a winter wonderland! Walk through rows of light structures, or speak to the "singing tree" and see how the lights react. At the Botanical Train Display, 2500 plants create a seasonal backdrop for seven different lines of model train tracks, and recreations of iconic Canadian landmarks. Pass through the festively-decorated Breezeway and explore the beautifully lit Mediterranean Garden. Festive snacks and warm drinks are available for purchase at three stations along the walk. *This is a time-ticketed experience. Upon registration you will be required to select an entry time.* <https://www.rbg.ca/things-to-do/by-season/winter-wonders/?on=2024-12-05>

The Joy of Birding (Intermediate)

RBG's birding program, with instructors Catherine Manshot and Heather Hosten, continues through the winter months. Upcoming dates include: Dec 6, Jan 7, and Feb 1. Sessions are 1 to 2 hours long. Pre-registration required. \$20 (+ HST and \$1 Service Fee) Members 10% off.

Royal Botanical Gardens is your connection to nature all year long. They offer 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 Hélène or Krysa.

POINSETTIA SHOW at the FLORAL SHOWHOUSE Nov. 18 to Jan. 7 (Closed Dec. 25)

7145 Niagara Pkwy, Niagara Falls, ON

The Niagara Parks Floral Showhouse hosts the annual Poinsettia Show throughout the Christmas season. This classic performance combines traditional Christmas settings with modern accents of vivid colours and lights to bring the warmth and romance of the season to life. A family holiday tradition for over 65 years, it features over 1,400 poinsettias, along with 1000 display plants like cyclamen and azaleas, highlighted by colourful lighting installations.

WHS BOARD MEETING – Wednesday, November 27 7pm

At Anne's.

FIFTY'S FROSTY FAIR – Saturday, November 30 9am to 1pm

Fifty United Church, 1455 Hwy 8, Winona

A unique Christmas shopping experience! Sip on spiced coffee or hot apple cider, and listen to your favourite Christmas carols while you browse through tables of crafts, sewing, vintage decorations and tree ornaments.

Cash only

SANTA CLAUS PARADES

The Original Toronto – Sunday, November 24 12:30pm

Route starts at Christie Pits Park. One of the oldest in the world, you can experience it in person or check listings to watch on CTV or CP24.

Burlington – Sunday, December 1 2pm

Sponsored and run by local businesses. Route begins at the Central Hub (Teen Tour Way), and travels southwest on New and Brant Streets. Donations to food bank welcome.

Grimsby – Saturday, December 7 5:15pm

"Christmas Out of This World" is the theme for 2024. Route travels along Livingston Avenue. Donations to food bank welcome.

ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH COOKIE WALK – Saturday, December 7 9am

Choose from a variety of yummy treats, while supporting the church that hosts our meetings!

WHS NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, December 18 6:30 pm

St. John's Anglican Church Hall, Winona

Annual, Christmas pot luck dinner. Installation of 2025 Board of Directors.

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

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.

*"In November, the earth is growing quiet.
It is making its bed, a winter bed for flowers and small creatures."*

– Cynthia Rylant

Tonight's Activity

We're gathered together, with bunches of greenery, sticks and twigs, and glitz and glam. Now it's time to put it all together in a festive arrangement. Whether you choose to make an urn filler, a table-topper or centerpiece, or decorate a wreath, we know it will be beautiful. So, let's get creative, think outside the box, and make something festive! ... Let the fun begin!

DIY At Christmas and Make It Natural

Making your own natural Christmas decorations is not only eco-friendly but budget-friendly too! Oranges and pine cones are two simple materials that are readily available and totally versatile. Dried citrus fruits are so pretty that they look like stained glass when hung in a window. Just dry them low and slow, (sprinkling them first with ground cinnamon for good measure), and you'll have lovely dried citrus to bring a bit of color into your nature-inspired Christmas decor. Dried citrus is lovely in a garland, alternating with pine cones, some greenery, or simply hung on its own.



Sources: <https://www.homefortheharvest.com/easy-diy-natural-christmas-decorations/>
<https://www.thespruce.com/natural-christmas-decorations-4177526>

Winter Ticks

As winter approaches we are likely to forget about summertime pests like ticks, but the warmer temperatures we've experienced in recent years are keeping them active almost year round. While it's true that ticks are *usually* dormant and inactive in winter, when the temperature outside gets warm enough, (some sources say 4°C is the magic number) they spring to life. Cold weather does not kill them!

Not all ticks carry Lyme disease, but any tick bite can be nasty, so it's good to protect yourself from them, even in cooler temperatures. Know tick habitats and take precautions if you're out in areas where they live. Remove clothing when you come in the house and if you can, put it directly into the dryer on high heat before washing it to kill any ticks you may have brought in. Check yourself and others in your home for ticks daily, including your pets.

If you are unlucky enough to be bitten, or even just found them on your person, there are resources available to help you identify which species you are looking at, and what to do about it. Etick.ca is a public platform for image-based identification and population monitoring of ticks in Canada. The

website is very helpful with questions like how to recognize, and remove ticks, and how to protect yourself from them in the first place. If you submit a picture, (online or with the free app), their experts will quickly identify it. Your submission details will be added to the data base to aid their research. eTick has collaborated with the University of Montreal to develop TickTOOL (link below), which provides practical information on dealing with ticks. Ontario has a high incidence of ticks; they're here to stay! It's up to us to take adequate measures to protect ourselves!

<https://www.verywellhealth.com/why-you-should-check-for-ticks-in-the-winter-8419036>

<https://web.uri.edu/tickencounter/tickspotters/>

<https://etick.ca/en> <https://ticktool.etick.ca/>

Plant Hardiness Zones

When planning a garden, it's important to know the hardiness of the plants you're intending to grow. However, plant hardiness zone maps are not all the same. The USDA uses one factor to determine their zones. That factor is the lowest extreme temperature. The plant hardiness zone map developed by Natural Resources Canada, which is currently under revision, considers seven factors averaged over a 30-year time span! These include: monthly mean of the daily minimum temperature of the coldest month; mean frost-free period above zero C in days; amount of rainfall from June to November; monthly mean of the daily maximum temperatures of the warmest month; rainfall in January (important because freezing temperatures following rainfall can be hard on roots); mean maximum snow depth; and maximum wind gust in 30 years.

Natural Resources Canada also has a map that shows plant hardiness zones for Canada based on the USDA extreme minimum temperature approach. Both maps can be found at planthardiness.gc.ca.

The message from Agriculture & Agri Food Canada is that the (2024) revised zones are unlikely to change much. Because the map is based on data spanning 30 years and on more than just extreme temperature, zone shifts won't be huge. The east can expect to drop 1/2 to 1 zone, while the west coast is likely to go up or stay the same.

Also of interest is the Interactive Ontario Plant Zone map. The site even has a chart listing zones by city! https://www.plantmaps.com/interactive-ontario-plant-zone-hardiness-map.php#google_vignette

Is all this helpful? Maybe, but challenges result when plants are labelled in Canada with the U.S. hardiness zone. Sadly, that USDA Zone 5 plant will probably not thrive — or even survive — in the Canadian Zone 5. When in doubt, it's better to err on the side of caution. JB

<https://horttrades.com/plant-hardiness-zone-maps-are-not-created-equal>



Winona Horticultural Society Christmas Potluck

Wednesday, December 18, 2024 6:30 pm
St. John's Anglican Church Hall, Winona

Join us for our annual potluck dinner and carol singing. A collection will be taken for Mission Services.

Everyone welcome!

What to bring:

- * food to share: main dish; salad or side; or dessert (size of contribution should reflect number of guests you are bringing)
- * plate, cutlery and hot beverage cup for each person in your party
- * Christmas spirit!

WinHort will provide punch, tea and coffee.

Gift exchange - Re-gift it!

The idea of "re-gifting" has worked well for us in the last few years, so why mess with a good thing?! It's time to dig out that new, unused item that's been stored in the back of your closet all year - something a favourite someone gave you, but that you'll *never* use (because it's the wrong size, or colour, or just not your style!) - and bring it to tempt someone else. Nothing old and worn out, please, but something worthy of re-gifting. Don't wrap it, as we'll put them out for all to see, and then everyone will have a chance to choose a gift that suits them. Whatever is left will be donated to charity. Gives a whole new meaning to Secret Santa!

OHA Fundraisers

There's still time to get in on both of these!

Sipology tea fundraiser until November 30
<https://fundraise-ca.sipology.com/collections/ontario-horticultural-association-fall-2024>

50/50 Draw

Buy tickets until Dec. 13 for draw on Dec. 14
<https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/ontario-ha>

Newsletter editor required

It is with mixed emotions that I say the time has come for me to "retire", and as a result WinHort is in need of a new Newsletter editor. December 2024 will be my last edition.

When I took this on, some 15 years and 150+ newsletters ago, it was mostly just to deliver important information to the Society. In the days before e-mail, such notices came via Canada Post, and it took too much of our meeting time to read them out. Over the years, the Newsletter has grown into a means of sharing thoughts and ideas, with the content going both ways. I have loved receiving your photos, cartoons, quotes and personal stories, and gladly printed them for the rest of the members to enjoy. Thank you for your generosity!

I sincerely hope that someone will step up to fill the editor position, and make it their own. There is always information to share, so enjoy the process, and have some fun with it! It could be an exciting challenge for the right person!

Thanks again, to everyone who supported me and so lovingly let me know that my efforts were appreciated. It's been a great ride. Winona has the very best members!
JB

"How lucky I am to have something that makes saying good bye so hard." (Winnie the Pooh)

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:

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& Greta Carpenter
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