

Flamborough Horticultural Society

September 2025 Newsletter



President's Message

Greetings FHS Members

I hope everyone had a great summer! As we gear up for Fall, there are lots of activities going on in sister horticultural societies. Check out their websites. We are a month away from Co-hosting our District 6 luncheon meeting at the church. There will be minimal business at this meeting so that we can enjoy Sean James who is a great presenter. A sign up sheet will be sent out shortly. We hope you can volunteer for something, be it food or a prize gift for the fundraising table and penny sale. The District 6 meetings with our sister societies is a great way to network, meet new friends and support our District which now meets only twice a year.

For those of you who signed up for the Fall tulips, please send your \$35 per order e-transfer to fhs.treasurer@hotmail.com.

In this Newsletter, Liz Visentin has shared details of the Sept 6-7 Dahlia Society Flower Show Competition at the RBG. They will also have bouquets for sale and the Dahlias are spectacular to see.

Thank you to all who helped judge the Hamilton Trillium Awards. Please send separate emails to Trilliumawards@hamilton.ca to provide constructive feedback to help improved the program.

The City of Hamilton has a 5-year Biodiversity Action plan but the public needs to learn more about this.

Thanks to Fortinos store owner Miklos Kanalas, we have 6 large boxes of seeds for members plus we can dedicate some as a fundraiser for a nominal fee at the District 6 meeting. I will bring some boxes of these to our September meeting.

Please remember to start collecting seeds from your garden so that we have them for seedy Saturday in February or as seedlings for the Spring Plants sale. Thanks to our D6 Director Lianne Krane I have been storing about 20 Hellebores that I will overwinter for the spring plant sale.

If anyone has some large plant pots they no longer want, please drop them off at my place - 2 Flanders Dr. I am re-doing my back gardens and can use more pots to temporarily store the perennials.

Thanks and best wishes,

Susan MacMillan

Upcoming Events

Flamborough Horticultural Society Meeting

Date: Wed., Sept. 17

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

Speaker: Marion Jarvis

Topic: Exciting Color Year Round with Hardy Plants

Flower Show:

An arrangement in a vase of cut seasonal flowers including at least one Geranium

Hamilton Dahlia Society's Annual Flower Show

Dates: Sept. 6 (1pm - 5pm)

Sept 7 (10am - 3pm)

Location: Royal Botanical Gardens



HAMILTON DAHLIA SOCIETY'S

Annual Flower Show

Royal Botanical Gardens
680 Plains Road W, Burlington

Sept. 6th - 1:00 pm - closing
Sept. 7th - 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Auction to follow

"Where Dahlias Take
Centre Stage"



District 6 Fall Lunch: Oct 4th

Cohosted by Mount Hamilton and Flamborough Horticultural Societies

Location: St Thomas Church, Parish Hall
715 Centre Rd, Waterdown

Time: 10am-1pm

Sign in: 9:45 am

Pre-register by Sept. 27

Cost: \$30.00 E-transfer to:

d.6treasurer@outlook.com (include your name, email address and Society in the e-transfer)

District 6 Fall Lunch Sat. Oct. 4, 2025.
Sign in at 9:45 Meeting 10:00 to 1:30 PM
Co-hosted by Flamborough & Garden Hamilton
St Thomas Church, Rear Parish Hall
715 Centre Rd Waterdown
Speaker: Sean James
Topic: *Life-Magnet: Creating a Layered Native Garden for Biodiversity*
Penny Sale, Share the Wealth
Festive Hanger Ornament Auction (interchangeable seasons)
\$30 Pre-register d.6treasurer@outlook.com by Sept. 27th
include name, email address and society in e-transfer

Garden Ontario 50/50 Cash Raffle Fundraiser

Draw date: Oct 4/25 [Purchase Ticket](#)

Garden Ontario KEEPING ONTARIO BEAUTIFUL®
50/50 DRAW
Next Draw: October 4, 2025
LICENCE # RAF1449351
All proceeds go towards Keeping Ontario Beautiful® by way of grants and education.

Pelargonium

The Pelargonium is the floral symbol of our Horticultural Society and the feature for our September Flower Show. The name “Geranium” is often given to two members of the Geranium family (Geraniaceae). However, a true “Geranium” is the perennial one known as *Cranesbill* (*Geranium*). What we also call “Geraniums” are the flowers that are not hardy in our zone which are usually sold for containers or as annuals in flower beds. When these plants were first introduced from South Africa, they were misclassified as being in the same genus as the perennial geranium. When you buy “geraniums” to plant in your window boxes you are actually planting “Pelargoniums”!

Types of “geraniums” [Geranium vs Pelargonium](#)

Reading Corner

OHA News and Trillium Newsletter



[Garden Ontario](#)

Cross Pollination Newsletter Index

This is a new feature on the Halton Master Gardeners' Website. This index may be used to explore past issues and to search for information from several years of archived issues. Features include:

- Articles dating back to 2020, organized by topics
- Links to each newsletter
- Topics covered include: Plants, Ecological Gardening, Garden Maintenance, Pests and Diseases, Growing Food and more [Newsletter Index](#)
- [Halton Master Gardeners Butterfly Host Plant List](#)

September Garden Tasks

- Divide and transplant perennials
- Last fertilizing of lawns for the year (use fall fertilizer)
- Prepare and seed new lawns
- Renovate perennial borders
- Cover tender plants when frosts are forecast
- Start saving seeds for next year
- Stop watering tuberous begonias
- Plant spring-flowering perennials now
- Fertilize roses one last time
- Adjust mower level lower
- Soak the soil around evergreens and transplants if drought conditions exist
- Stop fertilizing trees and shrubs to permit this year's growth to harden off before winter
- Dispose of diseased foliage. DO not compost
- Mark perennials or create a map showing their location so you will know where they are when they die back at the end of the season
- Plant evergreens, shrubs and trees now to give them at least six weeks to get established before hard frosts
- Plant garden mums into flower beds if overwintering them
- Check houseplants for pests before moving indoors
- Add compost to gardens
- Keep weeding. DO not let perennial weeds get established and do NOT let any weeds go to seed
- Begin planting fall bulbs towards the end of the month

Prolonging Blooms of Fall Mums

Buy mums with buds rather than full blooms. Place in bright, indirect sun. Protect from rain and water from the bottom to decrease browning. Cool temperatures prolong the blooming period. This can be a challenge in our ever increasingly hot autumns! Move into a shady spot on hot days. Deadheading as soon as the blooms fade will encourage new blooms- this is a MUST do maintenance them!

Dividing Irises

Late summer and early fall are the best times to dig up and to divide bearded iris clumps. Using a shovel, dig up the entire clump.

1. Shake the dirt off as much as possible.
2. Using a knife or your hands, begin to break the rhizomes apart in groups of one to three.
3. Identify any diseased rhizomes, and lay those out separately. Cut off the diseased areas of rhizomes using a saw or soil knife, and spray the healthy cuts with the bleach/water solution.
4. Using pruners, cut the foliage down by half.
5. In spring plant the rhizomes in pots into groups of one to three.
6. Water the divisions well. Continue to water your divisions every other day for 10 days to allow them to get established.
7. Divide bearded irises every three to five years for optimum health.

Native Asters



One of my first harbingers of autumn has always been when the goldenrods and asters burst into bloom in meadows and along the open areas of our surrounding trail systems. A diverse group of hardy plants, asters are native to many regions and habitats across Canada. Commonly seen in fields and on roadsides, some species prefer wetlands, woodlands, or even alpine areas. They are also beneficial to wildlife, as well as a great addition to any garden for fall colour. As members of the Asteraceae or Compositae family (sometimes called the daisy, sunflower, composite, aster, or even thistle family) they

have composite flower heads. This means that each flower is actually a group of smaller flowers consisting of ray flowers (petals) surrounding disk flowers (the centre). Disk flowers are usually yellow or burgundy, which make a nice contrast with the blue, purple, violet, or white ray flowers. An added attraction is their sometimes striking purple stems.

Read more here: [Native Asters for Ontario Gardens](#)

When and How to Prune Lavender?

Lavender is a shrub that will do best if pruned every year. Do not be too frightened to cut back your lavender, especially if it is the English variety. This is a job to get on with in August, or early September, once the flowers are finished for the season. Always make sure some new green growth remains. You can remove most of the new, green growth, so long as you cut above the small buds and green shoots that are forming on the lower woody material. The important thing is simply to make sure that you do not cut right down to old wood, as if you do, the lavender may not readily re-grow.

Watch this video:

[When and How to Prune Lavender](#)

Start Herbs NOW for Indoor Planters

It's still warm enough to start herbs from seeds outdoors if you would like to have an indoor planter of fresh herbs ready for later in the fall. Use the container you will bring indoors and lightly sow the seeds in well draining potting soil. Cover with plastic wrap while germinating. Then take advantage of a sunny location for the seedlings to get established.

Bring indoors later in the fall when night time temperatures begin to drop below 10 degrees. Basil is particularly sensitive to cold temperatures. Once indoors, place in a sunny location and enjoy!

Importance of Fall Pollinator Plants

Fall blooms provide the last energy sources for butterflies and bees in order for them to successfully overwinter and thus are vital to their survival. Some other plants like Milkweed also serve as larval hosts.

Key fall blooming, native plants include: Asters, Goldenrods, Milkweed, Blazing Star, Black-Eyed Susan, Purple Coneflower and Mountain Mint, and Ironweed.

Including these plants in your garden ensures continuous availability of nectar and pollen to support insect and butterfly life cycles before winter arrives.

Native Plants, Lawns and Ticks?

One might think that a garden filled with native plants might be a better habitat for disease-carrying ticks than a lawn of turfgrass or a neat garden centre type landscape, but research in the last few decades in New England suggests otherwise. Human activity has actually fueled the spread of Lyme disease by development, suburbanization, the introduction of invasive plants and habitat fragmentation that has disrupted naive biomes. This has led to a proliferation of white tailed deer and mice whose infections have proliferated. Ticks happen to favour vegetation where deer and mice live. A favoured shrub for ticks happens to be the escaped and now invasive Japanese Barberry which leads to an explosion of the tick population upsetting what was once a stable cycle of infection.

In the past, biodiversity protected us from the proliferation of disease. As biodiversity has declined, the most able species particularly those that reproduce quickly have taken advantage and have adapted quickly to the denuded habitat. They also tend to be good hosts for infectious organisms.

This inverse relationship between biodiversity and the transmission of diseases is an ecological concept called “The Dilution Effect”. Thus fragmented ecosystems and our human shaped landscapes are ideal for the spread of diseases that jump from animals to humans like Lyme disease. Animals like mice and ticks thrive when predators disappear and forests are broken up. The warming of the climate has also allowed the expansion of ticks into Canada, particularly Southern Ontario. This makes the need for biodiversity and the establishment of forest corridors all the more important as it creates habitats for more species and provides competition making it more difficult for any single species to proliferate.

Fall Garden Tips for Helping Native Bees Prepare for Winter

Create or maintain some patches of clear, undisturbed soil for ground nesters. Leave hollow stems and dead perennial stalks. Other insects will also use these in winter. Leave some old wood or bark for leafcutter and mason bees. Leave a layer of leaves in gardens. This provides insulation and shelter particularly for bumblebees and other beneficial insects.

Flower Show Reminder



Remember to photograph your gardens during the summer and fall months. One of the themes for the flower show during winter will be a photo of your summer garden. Be creative!

Northland Nursery :

Family run nursery in Millgrove Ontario (722 Concession 5 W Northland Let them know you are an FHS member for our Society year-end rebate for any online orders. **(Opens April 22nd)**

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

PO Box 902 Waterdown L0R 2H0

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[Garden Ontario Group District Six](#)

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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 2024/25

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 and Trillium Judging

Liaison- Ann Cochren

Director at large - Christine Rowe

Director at large - Verna Scovell

Committee Chairpersons

Caring - Susan MacMillan

Nominating Committee - Trudy Bliedung

Civic Improvement – Jan Bignell

Communications Copywriter – Jennifer Godyn

Garden Walk – Open

Meeting Hospitality – Open

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

A late summer garden has a tranquility found no other time of year

William Longgood