

North Dumfries Garden Club NEWS

Fall 2025



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& Elizabeth Paling

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Erika Brombacher & Elizabeth Paling

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Lori Crewe

Directors At Large
Betty Butcher

NEXT ISSUE:
Winter 2026

*“Putting
down roots
since 1920”*

“In the garden, Autumn is, indeed, the crowing glory of the year.”

Rose G. Kingsley. Timeless Travel Steps. [5DEC2025].

Retrieved from, <https://timelesstravelsteps.com/quotes-about-fall-season-autumn/>



Jacqueline Wettlaufer, 2025

Janet Schmidt, 2025

Jacqueline Wettlaufer, 2025

:Photo Credits

MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM PRESIDENT

In celebration of fall colours.

The vibrancy of fall is upon us as the mums fill the pots in downtown Ayr and many doorsteps alike. A country drive or a walk around your own neighbourhood will showcase the trees as they paint the scenery with gold, orange and red. Valiantly holding on ‘til the frost and wind decide to paint the yards instead.

*Autumn is a special time where
the days may grow short but the sun still warms.*



While it does not hold the fondness of spring for me, I must say I welcome the reprieve from weeding. I'm always so excited for spring to arrive but by this time of the year, I'm ready to settle in and have a bit of a rest.

Much like the bulbs, I just planted.



Thank-you to those who bought spring bulbs from the Ontario Horticultural Society and for our own club secretary Jacquie for delivering them. It was a *surprise pack* so it will be interesting to see what will be on display next spring.

The seasons are what make gardening so varied and interesting.



Hearing Cheryl Losch speak on "Extending the garden Season, Winter Seed Sowing, and Garden Clean Up Considerations" at the September meeting gave all in attendance some nuggets to consider. I've always wanted a cold frame and Cheryl made this seem very doable either with some old windows or plastic jugs.

Enjoy these fine days, snuggle in for the chilly ones, and join us the last Monday of the month for education, conversation and celebration of our seasons.

*Kind Regards,
Janet*

Bedding Down for the Winter

by Elizabeth Paling



Purple Coneflower



Joe Pye Weed



Little Bluestem Grass

As Autumn paints our landscapes in brilliant reds, oranges and yellows, we get busy cleaning up our gardens and lawns in readiness for winter. In recent years, we've been urged to take a gentler approach to these tasks, particularly to support a diversity of beneficial invertebrates who winter in or under fallen leaves.

A recent US study compared small areas in suburban yards where leaves were raked against small areas where leaves were left. The number of insects emerging from the ground in Spring was compared and found overall emergence rates were reduced by around 50% in areas where leaves were removed. Rates differed among spiders, butterflies & moths and beetles. In a period from March to June, the study found as many as 2,000 insects emerged from a small area of only a square meter where leaves were left! It's hard to imagine that so many insects complete their life cycles in such a small area and indicates that leaving the leaves can make a difference. A diversity of insects provides many benefits in addition to pollination as many predator species take care of insects like aphids that are harmful to our plants and difficult to manage.

While leaves are an essential resource to the life cycle of beneficial pollinators, they also have direct benefits to our lawns and gardens.

Leaves are nature's fertilizer.

We spend many hours raking and bagging leaves like they're garbage – but those same fallen leaves are nature's own fertilizer. The nutrients a tree pulls from the soil during the growing season are stored in the leaves. When they fall and decompose, that nourishment goes right back into the ground. By removing those leaves, we rob the soil of food – then we turn around and replace it with store-bought fertilizer.



Silver Maple Leaves

Let's work with nature instead of against it;

- Shred leaves with your mower and leave them on the lawn
- Rake leaves into your garden beds for insulation, weed control and soil nourishment
- Use leaves to build leaf mold or add them to your compost
- Leave them where they fall to create overwintering habitat for bees, butterflies and fireflies
- If you must rake and remove, make a loose, shallow pile of leaves in a back corner of your yard for overwintering invertebrates.



Black-eyed Susan

Seed heads make the best bird feeders.

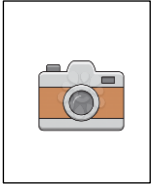
Be selective in cutting your plants to the ground in the Autumn. Some, like Hostas, Lilies and Irises don't have large seed heads so can be cut in the fall. Leave these leaves in place to protect the plants and soil over winter. Others, like Black-eyed-Susans, Coneflowers, Goldenrods and Sunflowers have abundant seed heads and are important food sources for winter birds and small mammals. Bare and exposed soil will leach nutrients over the winter and invite weeds to move in as the soil warms in Spring. Protect your garden soil with leaves and standing plants.



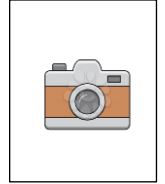
Goldenrod

Let's rethink our harsh, rigorous approach to Autumn clean up and adopt a gentler bedding down for winter instead. This will yield many benefits for our gardens, our lawns and all of nature's living creatures.

MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS & CELEBRATIONS



Members are encouraged to take photos during events for sharing in the newsletter and on social media. Photos, including the name of the event and who the photographer was, can be sent to: northdumfriesgardenclub@gmail.com



PHOTOS FROM THE IN & AROUND THE GARDEN



Photo Credits: Carrie Rolleman, 2025.



Photo Credits: Jacqueline Wettlaufer, 2025.



Photo & Video Credits: Marilyn Bursey, 2025.



Photo Credits: Lynn Creeden, 2025.

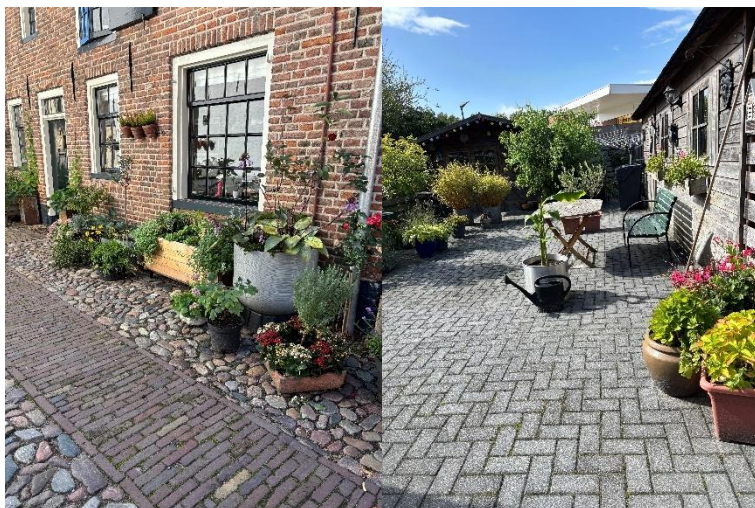


Photo Credits: Diny Bos, 2025.

SEPTEMBER

“Extending the Garden Season, Winter Seed Sowing, and Garden Clean Up Considerations”.

Cheryl Losch, Herbalist.



Photo Credits: Jacquie Wettlaufer, 2025

Vegetable growing seasons can be extended by utilizing cold frames – plant in late August according to germination days for December harvest, ex. potatoes, Brussel sprouts, carrots, beets, kale, peas and radishes. Potatoes can be grown in containers to keep them warmer with extra compost/nutrition/potting soil. You can grow just about any of these in a container – beets, carrots, potatoes. Growers are now making seed for container growing, ex. pixie cabbage and smaller squashes that will climb on vines. Carts with wheels can also be used to move plants about into the sunshine. Plants can be protected from adverse weather conditions with frost cloth, and by packing compost up around them. Winter is a good time to sow seeds as well. December – March from the Winter Solstice onwards, plant Marigold, Zinnias, Black-eyed Susans, milkweed, or marshmallow.

OCTOBER

“Overwintering Your Plants”.

Emma Walkerley, Landscape Manager, Meadow Acres Garden Center.



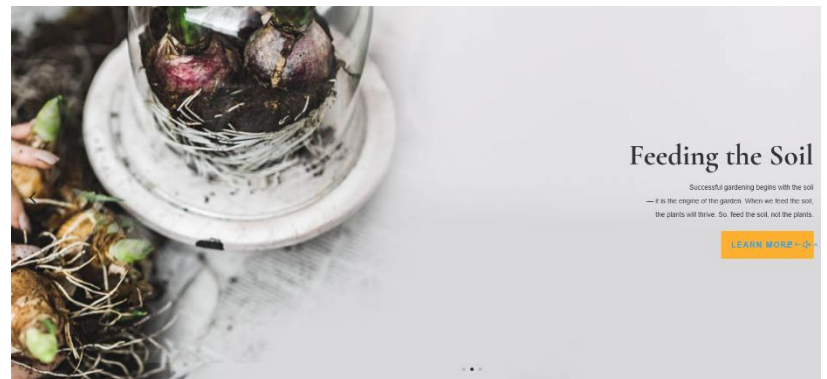
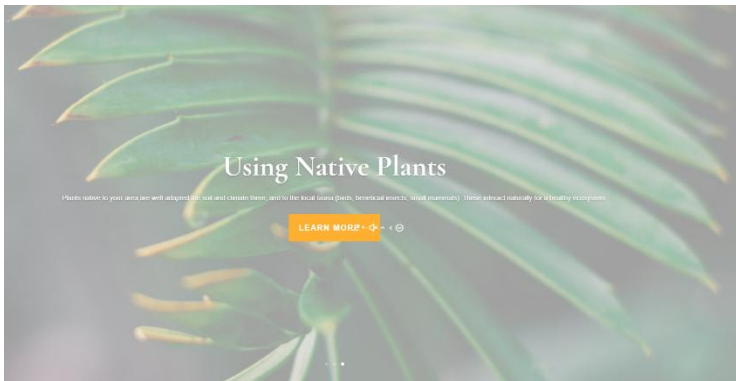
There's always room for more plants!

Most house plants need to come inside from outside in late fall and winter, making a transition into our homes, providing us with lush greenery. House plants do vary in their needs seasonally – water, light, humidity and fertilization. Every type of plant is different in their needs – try to find the right balance of these nutrients. Any pests that find their way inside can usually be treated with insecticidal soaps. If a plant was in a bright space outside, it will need a bright space indoors. In general, watering will be reliant on the humidity in your home and for the most part, these plants will not need as much water as they did when they were outdoors. Plants don't like chlorine in our tap water so let the water sit out to evaporate it off and acclimate to room temperature. Plants with saucers can be watered from below, and could be enhanced with a display of pebbles around the base. With fertilizers, use slow release and make sure soils are replaced every 5 years. During repotting, give a small pruning to the roots. Use a horticultural oil or canola oil (ex. BugBGonECO) if there are unwanted insect infestations. Christmas plants can be kept all year round, poinsettias for example love being outside in the summer as do Christmas Cacti.

2026 Club Meetings:

Doors Open @ 7:00pm, meeting begins @ 7:30pm Kirkwood Lounge, 191 Stanley Street, Ayr

- **CHRISTMAS BREAK – No meetings for December; but newsletters, and emails will continue.**
- January 26th
- February 23rd
- March 30th
- April 27th
- May 25th
- June 29th



Ontario Horticultural Association | Garden Ontario. [2022].
Retrieved from, <https://gardenontario.org/conservation/>. 9DEC2025.

LEAVE THE LEAVES, SAVE THE BEES (AND THEIR FRIENDS)!

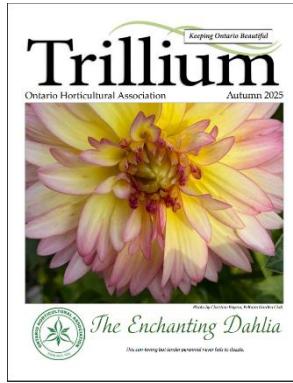


As tempting as it is to “clean up” the garden before winter – resist the urge! Many of our beneficial bugs are tucked in for the season right under those leaves

"Here in southern Ontario, pollinators and pest-eaters like native bees nesting in hollow stems, ladybugs and lacewings under leaves, butterflies overwintering as chrysalises, firefly larvae glowing quietly in the soil, ground beetles and hoverflies keeping pests in check.

When we rake, bag, and burn, we're accidentally sweeping away next spring's helpers. So this fall, let's leave the leaves in garden beds. Wait until spring (above 10°C) to tidy. Cut stems in spring, leaving 8-12" for nesting bees."

Mingle Hill Farm. [2025]. Retrieved from,
<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=799348662842958&set=pb.100083034953610.-2207520000&type=3>.
[9DEC2025].



Here's What You've Been Looking Forward To – The Autumn Edition of *Trillium*!

Start at the front, the back or in the middle! Because such inspiring content was created for this delightful newsletter, you won't be disappointed! Find out what has been going on in gardening. Learn what's been going on in 2025 by the OHA, Ontario Garden Clubs and Horticultural Societies.

Retrieved from, <https://gardenontario.org/wp-content/uploads/Trillium-Autumn-2025.pdf>. [9DEC2025].
Shared with permission, 2025.



All logos shared with permissions, 2025.

2025 Community Partners

All businesses request proof of membership cards at the time of purchase.

Business & Purchase Guidelines	Contact & Address	Discount
Canning Perennials *NEW* Online Catalog as of FEB 1 2024 *NEW* 100+ varieties of native plants Add additional 10% discount for early orders by March 31st Discounts only available on orders for Pick Up	canningperennials.com Christine Leopard 955309 Canning Road, RR22 Paris, ON N3L 3E2 519-458-4271	10%
Colour Paradise	www.colourparadise.com 1209 Bleams Road Petersburg, ON N0B 2H0 519-745-0200	10%
Four Seasons Tree Service Special rates available for the Ayr region. Further discounts provided to seniors.	www.fourseasonstreeservice.ca Tony (newton.fourseasons@gmail.com) RR4 Bright, ON N0J 1B0 C: 519-572-9720 B: 519-632-7771	13% (basically, no HST)
Meadow Acres Garden Center Discount applies to regularly priced items only. Services/Delivery Fees not included.	https://meadowacres.com/ Emma Walkerley 2315 Queen St. Petersburg, ON N0B 2H0 (519) 634-5479	10%
Not So Hollow Farm Discount code: <i>please inquire with Kyle</i> Applies to herbaceous plants, excluding trees, shrubs and our farm products. Discount applied before taxes. No delivery service.	https://notsohollowfarm.ca/ Kyle (new owner) Mulmur ON L9V 0J7 705-627-8004 kyle@notsohollowfarm.ca	10% (to be confirmed)
Sheridan Nurseries Discount applies to regularly priced items only. To pre-activate select sales notices via email and the 10% discount automatically at the cash register, please visit Sheridan's and speak with a representative.	https://www.sheridannurseries.com Store Manager, Erik Vopni 100 Elmsdale Drive Kitchener, ON N2E 1H6 519-743-4146	10%
The Lavender Farm Discount includes waived entrance fee. Gift shop no longer open.	thelavenderfarm.ca 769 Drumbo Road Ayr, ON N0B 1E0 519-632-7368	Free Entry
The Living Outdoors Ltd.	thelivingoutdoors.ca 486 Main Street Cambridge, ON N1R 5S7 519-622-1861	10%
ValleyFeeds Discount applies to all merchandise excluding farm feed, top soil, and 3-in-1 Mix March to September. *NEW* Bee Products	https://valleyfeeds.ca/ Samuel "Sam" Strain (@valleyfeeds.ca) 486 Main St E, Cambridge, ON N1R 5S7 519-621-5204	10%
Walters Greenhouses and Garden Center Tuesdays Only	www.waltersgreenhouse.ca 363 Governors Road, East Brant, ON N3L 3E1 519-752-4436	10%