

Garden Dispatch

London Fanshawe Horticultural Society (LFHS)

where people grow with their gardens

LFHS's Plant Sale – Spring 2025

Mark your calendars!

Plant sale sign up for May 17th – This is our major fundraiser that supports many of our activities so **why not volunteer** to help, as it builds community and success of **LFHS!**

Sign up at our April 17 meeting (Parkway Gardens) or contact a Board Member.

Preparation Day: Friday, May 16th **8:30 am to 3:00 pm**

Bring potted plants to be identified and sorted

When: Saturday, May 17th (setup begins at 6:30 a.m.)

Event: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 pm for customers

Where: Eastern Star Temple, 800 Fanshawe Park Rd E.

Help needed:

- * To bag compost (many hands make the task easier)
- * To run the sale (setup, selling, clean-up)
- * To advertise (before the sale) – by telling friends, neighbours, colleagues ...

Please post to social media about the sale.

We ask members to bring plants that are healthy and well-rooted to ensure success for the buyer. **Don't forget to label.** Plants to consider:

- Natives (in demand!) such as bloodroot, mayapples, toad lily, bee balm, black-eyed susans, coneflowers, prairie smoke, cup plant, gas plant, ginger
- Astilbes, phlox, hellebores, hardy geraniums, lavender, bluebells, creeping phlox
- Hostas (small or unique), Japanese forest grass, ferns
- Vegetable plants you have started from seed

Plants such as common daylilies and common hostas tend not to sell well. Absolutely no invasives such as vinca or bugleweed or any others. Please refer to invasive species links under Podcasts and Links, pg 5.

It really is a fun activity, no matter how you help!



On behalf of the Plant Sale Committee,
thank you in advance for your contribution towards what we
expect will be a very successful **LFHS** plant sale!



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LFHS

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<https://gardenontario.org/society-listing/entry/77/>

Email us at:

londonfanshawehortociety@gmail.com

Online store:

<https://london-fanshawe-horticultural-society.square.site/>

Like us on Facebook:

[London Fanshawe Horticultural Society](#)



Garden Sale Preparations:

Over two weekends, two different crews of volunteers met at the Academy Greenhouse on Dundas Street East to plant up dahlias, cannas, strawberry plants and a variety of bare root plants for the May plant sale. A big THANKYOU to all the volunteers who shared their knowledge, talent and time with **LFHS**.



LFHS Meetings

There is a new poster for the **LFHS** Library Table at our meetings. Dig into Reading! Information about the rules of the Table are: Leave a Book, Take a Book, Bring it Back or Pass Along. Magazines and pamphlets, growing guides. Current plant and seed catalogues are also welcome.

February

It was a surprisingly large turnout on a cold and snowy Feb. evening. Members brought home some great door prizes. We are a hardy bunch of Canadians!



Guest Speaker: Julissa Litterick gave a presentation on the topic of Horticultural Therapy and Inclusive Design. She shared her gardening journey experiences as a disabled person. A podcast nicely follows up her presentation in the section below, pg 5.

LFHS Member Sharing Spotlight: Vince Chicoine brought in his passion flower plant and shared his knowledge and experience propagating his passion flowers from an older plant. Thank you, Vince.

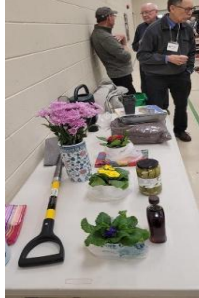


March

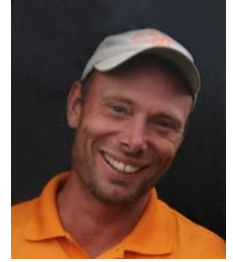
LFHS Member Sharing Spotlight:

Marilyn shares her slide presentation showcasing her 2023 garden walk and the benefits of the raised beds. She has extensive knowledge about using vertical planters in her garden, both for vegetables and for flowers to save space. The blooms were amazing! Thank you, Marilyn.





Guest Speaker: Darren Heimbecker of Whistling Gardens showcased a peony garden which features North America's largest collection of peonies with 1300 different varieties. After receiving a degree in Outdoor Education, Darren worked at a nursery as a propagator, shipper and field manager for 18 years. In 2006 he established Whistling Gardens Nursery and Garden Centre on a 56-acre farm just south of Brantford.



In 2012, Whistling Gardens officially opened as "Canada's Newest Horticultural Playground". The botanical gardens featured 20 landscaped acres. Since that time, Whistling Gardens has been recognized with numerous awards and achievements. Darren himself is a regular contributor to Fine Gardening Magazine. We were very pleased to have him share, on March 20th, his peony experience and his creative adventures in landscape design.

[Home - Whistling Gardens](#)

SAVE THE DATES

Annual Bus trip: On June 4, 2025, we're heading to the Wroxeter and Listowel area. Ticket sales will be at the May meeting, stay tuned for more information.

Plant Sale: Clarke Road Secondary School (CRSS) will be holding their annual plant sale on May 10 from 9 am to 1:00 (or 2:00 pm.). They will be selling hanging baskets, annuals, vegetables, herbs, indoor plants, as well as metal garden sculptures. It's cash only, rain or shine. Parking is around the back and signs will point you to the entrance.

*** **LFHS** supports one CRSS student each year with a bursary towards post secondary education in an agriculture or horticultural field. Come on out and support our future gardeners.



Garden Club of London – 75 years

A Floral Fanfare: May 3 – May 4, 2025; 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

[The Garden Club of London – Your Gateway to a Botanical Adventure](#)

Events

Seedy Saturday – March 1st. Considering it was a bitterly cold day, the attendance at Seedy Saturday was amazing! Thank-you to all who took turns manning our **LFHS** booth and who dropped by to visit. We handed out plant sale info and received feedback from many who are regular supporters.



Julia Hunter Fund 20th Anniversary – April 3

It was a good turnout at the London Club where friends and supporters enjoyed time together, celebrating the Julia Hunter Foundations 20th Anniversary. Murray, a member of **LFHS** has been a warrior in support of the environment and beautifying our communities. While sharing his values of forgiveness, kindness and compassion, Murray is also ensuring that his daughter's memory be preserved.

By Joanne Sanborn

Murray Hunter notes on the foundation website that the Julia Hunter Fund was created in 2005, in honour of the late Julia Hunter, to support public gardens in London and Southwestern Ontario. Design, culture, community and the environment are the focus areas. Community-based board members advise on operations.



The fund has developed a portfolio of projects including a city-wide garden contest, a symposium on heritage landscapes and the multi-year project Gardens for Bees, which has built 30 new pollination gardens across Southwestern Ontario.



ALSO OF INTEREST, PODCASTS, LINKS AND MORE

Beautiful Non-Invasive
Plants for your Garden

A Guide for Southern Ontario

[Southern-Grow-Me-Instead](#)



Trillium
Keeping Ontario Beautiful

Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA) Do you need a break from digging, planting and working in the garden? Put your feet up and enjoy every page of the Spring 2025 issue of the Trillium.

[Trillium-Spring-2025.pdf](#)



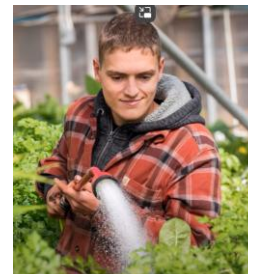
I am listening to Podcasts with Canadian hosts and information for our Canadian climate (from coast to coast to coast).

This month's podcast is Vegetables to Grow: Choose What's Best for your Vegetable Garden at the Food Garden Life Channel with Steven Biggs (Feb. 15, 2024). You might remember the hosts, Donna Balzer from HGTV Bugs and Blooms, and Steven Biggs who spoke at our meeting several years ago about getting children involved in the garden. In this podcast, Donna and Steven debate many interesting flavourful and colourful vegetables. Some of these vegetables can also be grown as edible ornamental plants.

[The Food Garden Life Channel with Steven Biggs](#)

By Maureen Beamish

"Julissa Litterick noted podcast: Landscape Ontario interviews a young man, Joe Steeves from Moncton, NB. who has a passion and commitment to work in horticultural trades. In this episode we hear about the transformation of being accommodated in the workplace. A few simple gestures by his employers at greenhouses and nurseries have created opportunities for Joe to thrive.



Joe exemplifies how a passion for plants can overcome physical challenges and anxiety. Despite the limitations of Cerebral Palsy, Joe is on track to achieve his goals through work and study."

[Diversity and inclusion creates opportunities to bloom for those with physical challenges](#)