

Flamborough Horticultural Society

Summer (July/August) 2025 Newsletter



President's Message

Greetings FHS Members

Thank you to members who helped make the Waterdown & Area Garden Walk a success; from those who hosted gardens, volunteered at the tent, gave out signs, helped sign up garden hosts and distribute or pick up garden signs. It shows what team work can do to complete a project.

I hope you were also able to visit a few of the Hamilton Gardens.

Congratulations to Harbir Hundal who has volunteered to take on the role of Membership Chairperson as of September. Janet will assist with a smooth transition. Please consider volunteering to help Harbir. A second volunteer is needed at the membership table especially during renewal time.

I will be sending a rotation form out for two members to volunteer each month to help organize the treats. All this entails is sending the sign up sheet around at the beginning of the year (or end of the previous year), providing a telephone reminder for people volunteering to bring treats and set up the table with water and optional juice. Since we are not serving coffee/tea, this will be much easier for those volunteering each month. Thank you to Ann Williams and Erika Friesen for your many years taking on the task of keeping the Refreshment Committee going.

I hope everyone has a great summer and that you find solace and happiness in your gardens.

Best Wishes

Susan MacMillan

Upcoming Events

Horticultural Society Meeting

No meetings in July or August.

We shall return in September! In the meantime - happy gardening!



[Purchase Tickets](#)

2025 Garden Walk



Tessa Morris, Betty Thompson and Jan Bignell at the information tent on Mill St., Waterdown. Perfect summer weather was on hand for the Garden Walk. This year there were 16 Waterdown gardens and 11 Flamborough country gardens to view. All were magnificent with a great variety of designs and plants as well as many of the gardeners available to chat with visitors.

June Flower Show Winners

Last month's theme was to create an arrangement using hosta leaves. Congratulations to our winners!

First Place: Gene Ditner



Second Place: Susan MacMillan



Third Place: Anne Cochren



Summer Care of Container Gardens



When first purchased or planted in late spring, containers look fresh and lush. With proper care this look can be maintained all summer and into the fall. The key elements of care are:

Water

This is a must especially with terra cotta pots. In hot, dry weather, watering a few times a week or even every day for hanging baskets may be necessary. Check the condition of the soil regularly by touching the soil with your fingers, feeling the weight of small pots and observing the leaves. Wilted leaves need immediate watering. If allowed to wilt severely and begin to turn pale it may be too late. Allowing plants to get to this state regularly will stress plants to the point that there is leaf loss or they may not recover. If a container has been allowed to dry out completely to the point that the soil has pulled away from the side, it's best to immerse it in a container of water if possible. If not then water very slowly allowing the water to be absorbed before adding more to decrease run off from the bottom of the pot. The best practice is to NEVER allow it to get to this state!

Fertilize

It's important to keep in mind that containers have a limited amount of soil and often soilless potting mixes which results in nutrients being depleted quickly especially when there are many plants close together. To maintain vigour and promote abundant flowering, regular fertilization

is essential. Soluble fertilizers (powder or liquid) should be diluted in water before watering. It is better to use them in small doses once a week when watering rather than in large quantities once a month. Slow-release fertilizers, in granule or powder form, can be mixed into the soil when planting. They release nutrients over several months, reducing the frequency of applications. For demanding plants or successive sowings, an additional application mid-season may be useful. I add slow release fertilizer when potting containers and then every second week add diluted soluble fertilizer for the rest of the season which works well.

Prune/Cut Back

Around mid-summer some flowering annual plants have become scraggly and leggy. To encourage those plants to bush out and produce a new flush of flowers, most annuals can be pruned back. This often causes some trepidation as we don't want to lose blooms or to reduce the size of plants. Annuals that are leggy are only flowering on the ends of long leafy branches like petunias! The plant may also be green (not flowering) and "flattened out" in the center. These are plants that should be cut back by about a 1/3 the volume of the plant to encourage bushiness and a second flush of blooms. It also helps to water and fertilize once the plants have been cut back. If you have not cut back these types of annuals, NOW is the time to do it!

Common annuals that benefit from being cut back to restore their vitality, shape and blooms include: Petunias, Cosmos, Calibrachoa or Million Bells, Snapdragons, Amaranth, Sweetpeas, Zinnias, Pansies, Portulaca and Alyssum.

Bumblebee Decline

There are approximately 400 native species of bees in Ontario, including 16 species of Bumblebees. As with all pollinators, bumble bees play a significant role in ecosystem health, food security and human health. They are excellent pollinators of gardens and vegetable crops, particularly tomatoes.

Recently 12 new species of bees have been added to the Species of Risk list, including Bumblebees. The Rusty-patched bumblebee (*Bombus affinis*) which was one of the most common Bumblebees in fields, farms and gardens in Ontario a few decades ago is now on the Species at Risk list. Habitat loss and land fragmentation along with pesticide use are the main contributors to their decline. The best way to help bumblebees is to plant native species as bumblebees have a preference for them.

Read more here:

[Ontario Bumblebees](#)

[Tall Grass Ontario](#)

Reading Corner

OHA News and Trillium Newsletter



[Garden Ontario](#)

On Nature Magazine

Published quarterly by ON Nature, a leading environmental charity. “On Nature's” contributors include award-winning journalists and photographers, and experienced conservationists. It has a sterling reputation as an authority on environmental issues.

[On Nature](#)

Places to Visit This Summer

University of Guelph Arboretum
[Arboretum](#)

July Garden Tasks

- Cut back perennials (e.g. hardy Geraniums, Delphiniums & Catmint) after the first flush of flowers to encourage new growth and further blooms. Deadhead perennials as well.
- Continue to deadhead and to pinch back annuals to encourage blooming and to prevent them from getting ‘leggy’.
- Shorten stems of fall flowering plants like Asters, Mums, Joe-Pyeweed and Goldenrod to keep them sturdy and compact.
- Lilacs: Remove the old flower clusters as soon after flowering as possible. Prune just above the two new shoots that angle out from the stem that ended with the old flowers.
- Avoid watering in the hottest part of the day. Morning is best. Water deeply newly planted trees and plants regularly, and existing trees less frequently.
- Fertilize annuals and planters to encourage more blooms.
- Maintain a thick layer (3 to 4 inches) of mulch on flower and vegetable gardens. It conserves moisture, reduces weeds, and adds organic matter to the soil.
- Remove old raspberry canes and trim back strawberry plants
- Continue to mow lawns high – cut grass no shorter than 3 inches
- Fertilize Roses
- Prune shade trees
- pinch back herbs

Canadian Coalition for Invasive Plant Regulation (CCIPR)

The Canadian Coalition for Invasive Plant Regulation (CCIPR) formed in 2022 in response to a growing need for awareness of the impacts of invasive and to the need to protect the environment and the economy and to develop policies, tools and regulations.

Read more here: [CCIPR](#)

Consider Planting Native Sunflowers

Native sunflowers are a good source of pollen for bees. Butterflies like sunflowers for their nectar, but this plant also serves as the larval food for the silvery checkerspot and bordered patch butterflies. They are also a good food source for chickadees, bluejays, nuthatches and goldfinches.

There are many species native to Canada. They include the annual *Helianthus annuus*, reported to be one of the first crops grown in North America.

Native Canadian Sunflowers



Common sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*)

Native to the prairies, this annual grows 90 to 300 cm in full sun, preferring dry to moist soils. It is an aggressive spreader.

Thin-leaved sunflower (*Helianthus decapetalus*)

Native to Ontario, this is a perennial often found along stream banks and open woods. Preferring full sun to partial shade and moist soils, it can reach heights from 60 to 150 cm.

Woodland sunflower (*Helianthus divaricatus*)

Also native to Ontario, it can be found in woods, thickets and clearings. This plant prefers full sun to partial shade and dry soils. It is also a perennial, reaching 2m tall and is an aggressive spreader.

Giant sunflower, tall sunflower (*Helianthus giganteus*)

Native to Ontario and to the Maritimes, this perennial is often found in moist thickets, and prefers moist soils in cultivation. It reaches a height of about 1.2 metres and blooms from summer to fall.

Prairie sunflower (*Helianthus petiolaris*)

Native to western Ontario and the prairies, it is found in open areas in full sun. This is an annual that grows to 1.2 metres with multiple small, 7 cm blooms with dark brown centres.

Ox-eye sunflower, false sunflower (*Heliopsis helianthoides*)

Native to most of Canada, this plant is often found on the prairies and in open woods. It prefers sun and dry soils. It is a perennial that grows 60 to 150 cm and is long-blooming from early summer to early fall. It can be an aggressive spreader. This plant is different from *Helianthus* in that both the ray and disk flowers are capable of producing seeds.

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- it's wonderful to see these photos in winter!

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. (**Opened 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 – Ann Williams

Membership – Janet Waterfall

OHA Website Monitor – Phil

Longstaff

Spring Plant Sale Co-chairs –

Connie Godyn and Sharon Hall

Speakers and Programs – Connie Godyn & Roxanne Riley

Now summer is in flower and nature's hum is never silent round her sultry bloom.

John Clare