

Flamborough Horticultural Society

October 2025 Newsletter



President's Message

Greetings FHS Members

I am a little late getting this Newsletter out even though Liz was able to send the draft to me on Sept 30. Lots to do to prepare for the October 4 District meeting including the draft Agenda, wrapping prizes, making 30 lbs of meatballs, an orange cranberry loaf and cooking meals for a blind 94-year old. Plus since losing the 100+ yr old shagbark hickory (I now have more sun), I am ripping up my entire back yard and potting up all the plants in order to have it redone. Yes, life gets in the way.

I am so grateful for all the hard work done by volunteers to help make our District meeting a success.

In particular, our volunteers in the kitchen — Ann Williams, Trudy Bliedung, Verna Scovell, Mary Blake, Erika Friesen and Janet Waterfall who had to overcome many challenges. All of you deserve a medal! Thank you to Ann Cochren for organizing tags for the penny sale table and contributing gifts, to Liz Henderson and Rose Jamieson for handling the Registration table, for Liz H. taking care of the signs and table cloths, and for other members who donated prizes and brought in food. Too many names to add here.

Special thanks also goes to Gene Ditner and Connie Godyn for the Auction decoration and the spectacular pumpkin table centre pieces. They were loved by everyone and particularly those who each won one.

Despite the challenges, the District members had a good time and enjoyed winning the prizes. Several thanked us and commented to me via email. You were all wonderful!

Our Newsletter Editor Liz Visentin is ill and still managed to get a Newsletter to us. Thank you Liz. We all wish you well.

There will be a continuation of the virtual OHA Annual Meeting on Nov 22nd to complete the Resolutions that did not get finished in July for those who attended previously.

Best Wishes
Susan MacMillan



Upcoming Events

Flamborough Horticultural Society Meeting

Date: Wed., Oct. 15

Time: 7:30

Speaker Jeff Stock

Habitat at Home: How to Enhance Biodiversity Everywhere and In-between your Garden

Flower Show:

A repeat of our popular annual Decorate a pumpkin using natural materials!

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-1:30pm

Sign in: 9:30 am



FLAMBOROUGH HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Mount Hamilton HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

District 6

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](#)



Hamilton Fall Garden and Mum Show

Oct 18- Oct 26 9am to 7pm daily

Gage Park Greenhouse

Hosted indoors at the Gage Park Greenhouse, this year's show transforms over 20,000 square feet into a stunning, themed floral showcase featuring more than 200 varieties of chrysanthemums and over 100,000 blooms grown on-site. Every year brings a brand-new theme, and 2025's "Under the Sea" will immerse visitors in a vibrant underwater world, filled with colourful floral displays, floral sea creatures, coral reefs, and interactive elements designed to spark curiosity and imagination.

For more details and ticket information:

[2025 Mum Show](#)

Reading Corner

OHA News and Trillium Newsletter



[Garden Ontario](#)

Plant Garlic!

Late September into October is the ideal time to plant garlic. Do not use bulbs purchased at grocery stores but bulbs specifically sold for seeding. Buying fresh bulbs at the farmer's market is also an option. I have done this in the past to introduce some unique and heirloom plants to my collection. Does the size of the clove matter - YES! The larger the clove the more likely you are to get larger bulbs at harvest. Any good, loose, well-drained soil in full sun is suitable for planting garlic. It's important to emphasize the importance of drainage, as a bulb growing underground is very sensitive to overwatering. Organic matter can be incorporated, and garlic thrives in moderately rich soils.

Plant two or three inches deep, with the pointed end upwards. Leave 4 to 6 inches between plants and 12 inches between rows. Add a slow release fertilizer to the soil, compost or bone meal before planting the bulbs.

When the first frost arrives, cover with straw or leaves especially in regions where snow does not consistently cover the garden or there is exposure to winds. This winter protection should be installed as late as possible and removed as early as possible in the spring.

October: Ideal Time to Plant Flowering Bulbs

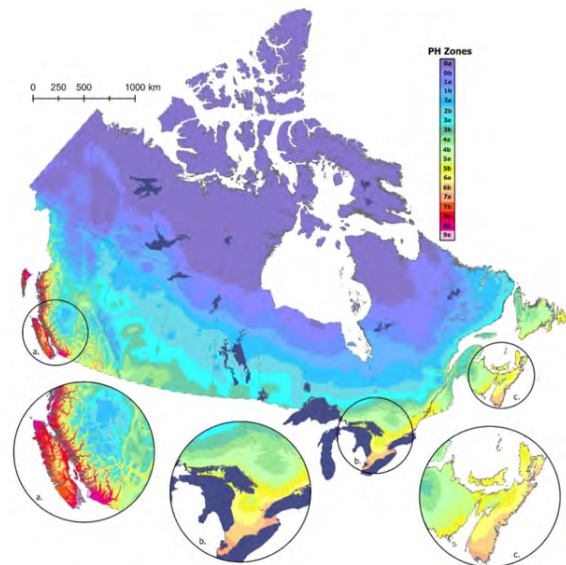
The best time to plant fall bulbs is when soils are below 15°C which is usually in late fall or about 6 weeks before a hard frost is expected (generally, October in our zone). Dig a hole and sprinkle a tablespoon or two of a high phosphorous (middle number) fertilizer (specialized bulb boost fertilizers can also be utilized) in the bottom of the hole. Place the bulb in the hole with the pointed end up. Cover the bulb with soil and water thoroughly. A two inch layer of mulch on top of the bed will help prevent winter weeds, retain moisture and insulate against severe winter cold and temperature fluctuations. To avoid tulip bulbs

being dug up by squirrels, plant at least 8 inches deep and cover freshly disturbed soil with leaves or mulch. I have done this in recent years after reading about the depth recommendation and have NOT lost any tulip bulbs! Bulbs avoided by squirrels: Daffodils, Fritillaria, Hyacinths, Alliums, snowdrops, crocuses and grape hyacinths.

Read more: **Ultimate Guide to Fall Bulbs**

<https://gardeningwithsharon.com/growing-perennials/planting-fall-bulbs-canada/>

Canada Plant Hardiness Zones Updated



Natural Resources Canada has released the first update to Canada's Plant Hardiness Zone Maps in over a decade, based on 1991–2020 climate data. Key facts:

- Canada's system is different from the USDA's. It uses 7 climate variables (see below) and not just minimum winter temperature.
- Since 1961–1990, most of Canada has warmed by ½ to 2 full zones.
- 99.6% of changes were increases, though a few small areas (e.g., parts of Newfoundland, Vancouver Island, Prairies, and northern Québec) saw decreases.
- The biggest drivers of change were warmer winters, longer frost-free periods, and hotter summers.

Ontario highlights:

- Toronto is Zone 7a.
- Ottawa has changed only slightly and remains 5a.
- Saute St. Marie is Zone 5a
- Windsor is Zone 7b.
- Check your nearest municipality
<https://planthardiness.gc.ca/?m=22&lang=en&prov=Ontario>

Read full report here:

[Hardiness Zones for Canada](#)

What Is a "Frost", Exactly?

"Frost" refers to the layer of ice crystals that form when water vapor on plant matter condenses and freezes without first becoming dew.

- A **light frost** occurs when the nighttime temperature drops to at or just below **32°F (0°C)**.
- A **hard freeze** is a period of at least four consecutive hours of air temperatures that are below **28°F (-2°C)**.

Many plants can survive a brief frost, but very few can survive a hard freeze.

- Generally, covering plants to create a temporary pocket of warmer air is the best way to protect them. Make use of season extenders like row covers or cloches to protect tender plants, such as seedlings or warm-weather veggies. Row covers or garden fleece can be used to help create a warmer environment beneath them. You'll need to use posts, bamboo, or flexible PVC piping to create space for the plants to grow, then drape landscape fabric or plastic over the frame; weigh down the edges with rocks or bricks or pegs so the covers do not blow away. To protect young plants from frost, use 2-liter soda bottles cut in half as cloches.
- It's best to have all covers in place well before sunset. Water lightly and drape loosely to allow for air circulation.

- Remove any covers by mid-morning so that plants can get full exposure to the warming sunlight.

October Garden Tasks

- Transplant or plant shrubs or young trees to new locations. Keep watering well until freeze up occurs.
- Prune diseased areas out of perennials. Do not compost.
- Rake and compost any fallen leaves on turf grass. Spread leaves on flower beds.
- Clean up garden debris. Remove all vegetable plants and fallen fruit.
- Remove dead annuals from the garden, after a frost.
- Leave flowers with seeds for the birds.
- Continue watering trees and shrubs until the ground freezes.
- Sharpen lawn mower blade and pruners.
- Oil tools as needed
- Trim tall grass away from trees and corners of your home to discourage small rodents from creating nests.
- Dig up tender bulbs such as dahlia, canna and gladiola. Wrap them in material like peat moss, Vermiculite, wood shavings or wrap in paper and store in a cool, dark space. The Dahlia Society has tips on storing.
- October is the ideal month for planting garlic and spring flowering bulbs.

Spiders in the Garden

Late summer into fall, intricate webs seem to materialize overnight! I term this "spider season"! In Ontario, over 800 species representing 35 families have been identified. The earliest spider fossils date back to 300 million years but were probably around for much longer. They are considered the ultimate predator of insects!

Read more here: [Spiders...Nature's Outcasts](#)

Ontario Spider Guide includes photography of the most common spiders, some dramatic species and some unusual families. [ON Nature](#)

Mums: Did You Know?

All mums originated from the same “parent” flower, a golden-yellow daisy-like chrysanthemum from China. Chrysanthemums can be divided in 13 separate categories based on the type of flower. Each form has a specific arrangement of rays and disk florets. Some of the best known are daisy, spider, cushion and button. Of these, there are over 100 cultivars. Many of these along with information posters will be available to view at the annual Gage Park Greenhouse Mum show.

.Read more here: [Epic Gardening Chrysanthemums](#)

Consider Planting a Carolinian Tree

We live in the ‘Carolinian Zone’ of Canada in Southwestern Ontario. This is the most ‘tree rich’ region in Canada with about 70 native species. This is more than twice as many as found in the rest of Canada. Some of these also include rare species such as Pawpaw, Butternut, Tuliptree, Black Gum, Cucumbertree, Shumard Oak, Cherry Birch, Kentucky Coffee Tree, Dwarf Hackberry, American Chestnut, and Red Mulberry. Planting trees from that list will aid in their long term survival.

Read more here: [Carolinian Species and Habitats](#)
[Recognizing Ontario's at Risk Species](#)

Controlling White Fly

These “pests” are commonly introduced when plants are brought indoors in the fall. They are small, white flying insects that look like tiny flakes of dandruff on the underside of leaves. When a plant is disturbed or moved they will fly off but quickly return to the plant or to a nearby plant. To prevent a winter infestation, wash each side of foliage with a solution of water and insecticidal soap before bringing plants indoors. If there is an infestation, hanging yellow traps (available at garden centres) will help to trap them. More info here: [Whiteflies](#)

September Flower Show

September’s theme was to create an arrangement in a vase using cut seasonal flowers and including at least one Geranium.

The entries this month displayed a wide variety of colourful blooms.

Congratulations to the winners:

First place - Wendy Phipps
Second Place - Ann Cochren
Third Place- Mary Blake.



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. **(Closes Oct. 31, weather depending)**

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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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

Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower

– Albert Camus