

Flamborough Horticultural Society

June 2025 Newsletter



President's Message

Dear FHS Members

What a great early bird plant sale and opening of the Farmers Market. This year we had the least number of leftover plants going back to my driveway for late sales. Many of these eventually found a home in the Civic beds including the new Carlisle Library gardens. Thank you to all who volunteered and made this successful!

Garden Ontario has organized a special Fall Bulb Mix of muscari (asparagus family), tulips, botanical narcissi and Leucojums both belonging to the amaryllis family. This colourful mix is attractive to bees and butterflies and reported to be resistant to deer and squirrels. Please email me your order for these bulbs **before June 24th** so that I can get the order in. There are 50 bulbs per package for \$35 and 15 packages per case. A minimum of 1 case must be ordered by a Society/Club.

While I have seen fewer Hummingbirds so far, perhaps due to a colder May, Orioles, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Goldfinches, Towhee, house Wrens, Cardinals, Blue Jays, Downey and Hairy woodpeckers, the occasional Pileated woodpecker, Finches, and Chickadees provide joy in our backyard.



Photo Credit w293766628_w/iNaturalist - <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/217816573>

Shrubby thickets are important sources of food (nectar, insects, berries, fruit, seeds), and important nesting sites for birds. **In Our Nature** has a great resource tool showcasing the 30 best shrubs to diversify habitat for birds, invertebrates and other wildlife and except for one invasive on their list check out these **31 plants in the link**.

I donate and subscribe to **Birds Canada**. The **North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI)** released a new report on the state of Canada's birds. Bird populations have decreased by 30% (almost 3 billion birds since 1970) which underscores the need to conserve and protect bird species. We can all help by providing habitat (e.g. shrubs/plants attractive to birds) and food (e.g., seed bearing plants that attract insects and invertebrates).

Don't forget the June meeting is on the 4th Wednesday so that we do not have a conflict with the school celebrations at the parish.

Best Wishes

Susan MacMillan

Upcoming Events

June Horticultural Society Meeting

Date: Wed., June 25

Time: 7:00pm

Location: St Thomas the Apostle Church:
715 Centre Rd, Waterdown

Speaker: Paul Oliver

Topic: Attracting Birds to your Garden

Flower Show: An arrangement using Hosta leaves

2025 Garden Walk



Date(s): Sat. June 28, Sun., June 29

Time: 9am to 4pm

Location: Waterdown and surrounding areas. Details will be emailed to members

Free Webinar: Canopy Clues

Join the **Nature Conservancy of Canada** for a fascinating NatureTalks event that will open your eyes to the forest in a whole new way. From the shape of a leaf to the texture of bark, every tree has a story to tell — and this session will teach you how to read the clues

Date: June 12 (5:30pm) [Registration](#)

The Monarch Awards are Back!

Since 2016, the ****Monarch Awards**** have celebrated eco-friendly gardening—recognizing those who create welcoming habitats for pollinators, birds, and native plants. Now, this inspiring initiative is growing again!



Applications open June 1, 2025 for Hamilton residents

The revitalized Monarch Awards feature a simplified application and a supportive evaluation process designed to educate and empower gardeners of all levels.

For more Information and application link

[Monarch Award](#)



[Purchase Tickets](#)

Garden Ontario Newsletter



[The Trillium News](#)

May Flower Show Winners

Last month's theme was an arrangement in a vase using spring blooms. Congratulations to our winners! From Left to right: First Place: Ann Cochren, Third Place: Susan MacMillan, Second Place: Martha Novaselac,



Congratulations to Annamary and D'Arcy Kilham



Flamborough Horticultural Society President, Susan MacMillan presents the Government of Ontario's recognition certificate of volunteerism for 30 years to Annamary and D'Arcy Kilham at the April Meeting. Thank you for all the time and effort that you have given for three decades.

June Garden Tasks

- Fertilize perennials, roses, shrubs and vegetables using a balanced fertilizer, not the one for your lawn.
- Start cutting your lawn higher/longer and leave cuttings on the lawn as fertilizer.
- Prune spring-blooming shrubs and trees (lilac, forsythia) after they have flowered.
- Prune evergreens and hedges now, not later in the summer.
- Finish removing all daffodil and tulip flower stems. Leave leaves to mature and feed the bulb for next year's bloom. Add a little bone meal around bulb clumps to promote bulb growth.
- Stake or cage tomato plants, dahlias, gladiolas, peony plants.
- Thin vegetable seedlings and plant successive crops. (Plant a second crop of lettuce, spinach and radishes as the first is maturing)
- Plant seeds of fast-growing flowers such as cosmos, marigold, calendula
- If desired, move houseplants outside to a protected area.
- Deadhead faded blooms on plants such as petunia, roses, and verbenas.
- Cut mums and asters back one third to give them a mounded shape and more blooms in the fall.
- Continue regular weeding

What to Plant Where NOTHING Will Grow

Dry Shade with Root Competition

This is one of the most challenging areas for growing plants! A few years ago when we were still conducting meetings on Zoom, we were fortunate to have Larry Hodgson as a speaker. He is now gone but his advice about gardening in shade lives on.

Root Competition: When dealing with root competition he suggested using drought tolerant plants, putting in a root barrier to hold roots at bay and planting large well established plants instead of small, young ones. He also suggested

that when planting you dig a hole 3x wider than the root ball and to cut some tree roots as needed. Once the hole is dug, cover it with a thick layer of moist newspaper. This will keep roots out for about a year, helping the new plant to get established. New plants should also be well watered the first year.

Dry Shade: Big Root Geranium (*Geranium macrorrhizum*)



Big Root Geranium is a low-maintenance, herbaceous, ground cover perennial usually growing less than a foot tall. Its dark green leaves are scalloped and deeply lobed and measure between 4 and 8 inches in length. The aromatic foliage turns to deep reddish rust in the fall months. Purplish pink or white, 5 petaled 1-inch blooms appear in clusters from the early spring until late summer. The blooms also feature dark red sepals. The flowers attract butterflies and bees. Once it has been established, it's drought tolerant. It has a shallow, dense root system and is easy to divide so that you can plant more of it and spread its growth wider in your garden.

Designing a Pollinator Garden

In recent years there has been a growing interest in gardening with native plants and in creating pollinator gardens. We have noted at the recent years' plant sales that more customers are requesting and purchasing native plants. These plants are an important part of pollinator gardens.

What is a pollinator garden? This is a garden designed to provide food and shelter to a variety of pollinators including birds, bats, bees, butterflies, beetles, and other beneficial insects and small mammals that pollinate plants.

The world's food supply depends on pollinators. Three quarters of the world's flowering plants and about 35 percent of the world's food crops depend on animal pollinators to reproduce. In Canada, bees are the most common pollinators, with over 800 native species. Habitat loss is considered to be one of the leading causes of decline in pollinator populations.

The following link provides plant lists and plans for creating pollinator gardens with blooms from spring to autumn along with sample garden designs for sun and part sun conditions.

[Pollinator Gardens](#)

Need Help identifying Butterflies and Moths?

Read more at this link from ON Nature Magazine. Published quarterly by Ontario Nature, **ON Nature** magazine is an authoritative source of environmental content with stunning photography and in-depth articles.

[Butterfly and Moth Guide](#)

What to do After Spring Bulbs Finish Blooming

With a few simple steps, spring flowering bulbs can be prolific season after season!

1. Allow the foliage of spring bulbs to fade and wither naturally.
2. Remove the foliage once it is dried and crisp.
3. Fertilize bulbs in the late summer/early fall to encourage better bulb development. Larger bulbs = larger and more numerous blooms!

2025 Plant Sale

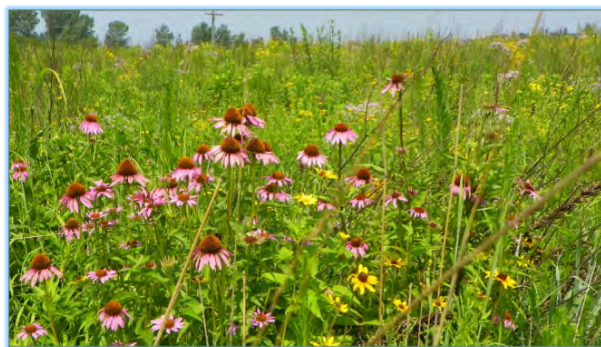


This year we had two early sales at Susan MacMillan's home prior to the main sale at the opening day of the Waterdown Farmers Market. This year the weather cooperated: the sun came out and the rain stayed away!

Thank you to Susan Macmillan for offering her home and taking care of the plants and to the volunteers who assisted her at the presale (Connie Godyn, Sharon Hall, Wendy Phipps, Adam Groff and Sabina McPhee).

Also thank you to the many volunteers who assisted at the Plant Sale at the Farmer's Market to set out signs, transport plants, set up, assist with sales and holds, to take down at the end and to assist with answering customers' questions and giving advice and suggestions (Susan MacMillan, Connie Godyn, Sharon Hall, Erika Friesen, Trudy Bliedung, Janet Waterfall, Ruth Merz, Liz Henderson, Tessa Morris, Chris Rowe, Mary Blake, Ann Martin and Jeanette Szabo), Signs - Caroline Bieze & Phil Longstaff.

What are Tallgrass Communities?



Tallgrass communities also known as tallgrass prairies and savannas are natural grasslands with a great diversity of grasses, wildflowers and animal life.

Tallgrass was once found throughout the central U.S. and in Southern Ontario and Manitoba. It covered an estimated 90 million hectares, about the size of British Columbia. Now only 1.5 million hectares (about one percent) remains. In Southern Ontario, tallgrass once covered approximately 1000 km², and today less than 3 percent remains, making it the most endangered ecosystem in Canada. Most tallgrass communities have been lost over the past 200 years due to human use of the land for agriculture and urbanization.

What is happening to save tallgrass in Ontario? World Wildlife Fund Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources have developed a recovery plan for Ontario's tallgrass communities. Local groups and individuals are hard at work across the region to save and recover tallgrass. "Tallgrass Ontario" is working to raise awareness, coordinate recovery efforts, and help provide local groups with the tools they need to do the job. Read more here: [Tallgrass Ontario](#)

Add Canadian Roses to Your Gardens

A Canadian rose is, by definition, an easy-care, disease-resistant rose, bred to withstand Canadian winters and it also needs no spraying. Read about the hardiest hybrids: [Roses](#) And there is also Rosa blanda a species of rose native to North America that is closest to come to a "thornless" rose.

[Explorers and Hybrids](#)

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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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

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Newsletter Editor - Liz Visentin

Flower Show and Trillium Judging Liaison- Ann Cochren

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OHA Website Monitor – Phil

Longstaff

Spring Plant Sale Co-chairs –

Connie Godyn and Sharon Hall

Speakers and Programs – Connie Godyn & Roxanne Riley

My garden is my most beautiful masterpiece

Claude Monet