

WINONA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



Newsletter

October 2024



WinHort has been growing since 1929!



We actually got started when Canada became self-governing and part of the Commonwealth, when the Great Depression hit and then was quickly followed by World War II. WinHort was there as oil was discovered in Alberta and Newfoundland became part of the Canadian confederation. We saw the Maple Leaf adopted as our national flag and the celebration of Canada's 100th birthday! As Canada went to space, WinHort was still there to keep area gardeners' feet firmly planted in the local dirt. :D Winona Horticultural Society was also a founding member of the famous Winona Peach Festival. And look at us now...

Getting ready to celebrate our 95th birthday!!!



Do you have your tickets for dinner?
Are you on our volunteers list?
Did we receive your hydrangeas or cheer and plenty donations?



Fall is such an exciting colourful time. As you get your garden ready for winter, remember to take a second thoughtful look at all that local dirt...

Notices and Events

ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS

680 Plains Road, Burlington

The Great Pumpkin Trail – October 18 to 20; and 25 to 27 5:30pm

Follow the candlelit glow of hundreds of jack-o-lanterns deep within the recesses of the Hendrie Valley; savour the flavors of the season with a selection of sweet and savory delights; while enjoying live entertainment and pumpkin themed activities. Time-ticketed event starting at 5:30pm.

Adults \$27 (+ HST and \$1 Service fee) Child \$20 (+ fees) *Pre-Purchased Tickets Required.*

RBG After Dark: Pumpkin Trail – October 24 6pm to 11pm

Hendrie Park transforms under the cover of darkness for this exclusive adult-only Halloween celebration. Come dressed in your Halloween best, and enjoy an evening of music, entertainment and pumpkin themed activities. 19+ event, ID required. Food and drinks available for purchase. Ticketed event. Adults \$31.51 (includes service fee and taxes)

Let's Go Birding (for beginners) – October 27; November 16 9am to noon

Learn about Ontario bird species and how to identify them in the field. Heather Hosten, RBG member and volunteer, leads the birding walks. \$20 (+ HST and \$1 Service fee) *Must pre-register.*

The Joy of Birding (intermediate) – November 10 9am to noon

Heather Hosten leads a small group of birders to explore the use of field marks, behaviour, taxonomy, timing, calls, songs, and habitat preferences to identify species in the field. Participants will be notified of the program's location via email at least 48 hours prior to date. 2-3 hours long. For more experienced birders.

\$20 (+ HST and \$1 Service fee) *Must pre-register.*

The Joy of Birding (intermediate) – November 20 9am to 4pm

Join Catherine Manschot for a day of birding across multiple RBG properties. Participants are responsible for their own transportation between locations (all locations will be confirmed with registrants prior to the program date). They will need to provide their own water bottle, litter-less lunch, and snacks for the day. There will be a few kilometers slow hiking over the course of the program, both in the morning and afternoon.

Must pre-register. \$45 (+ HST and \$1 Service fee)

RBG hosts events and educational programs, year-round, from blooms experiences, to performing arts, to holiday celebrations, and more! To learn more call 905 527-1158 or visit their website www.rbg.ca To borrow the WHS member's passes contact Hélène or Kryss. Members generally get 10% off.

STONEY CREEK PUMPKINFEST – Saturday, October 19 11am to 5pm

Stoney Creek BIA, King St. E.

The town will be hosting a series of Halloween events featuring trick or treat, zombie walk, live music, costume contest, artisan market, food trucks, pumpkins, and family activities. Free admission.

WHS BOARD MEETING – Wednesday, October 23 7pm

At Anne's. Possible work party for Birthday Dinner

WHS BIRTHDAY PARTY! - Sunday, October 27 3pm

Winona Vine Estates, 269 Glover Rd., Winona

It's going to be a great party!

REMEMBRANCE DAY: We Remember – November 8-10 12pm to 4pm daily

Hamilton Military Museum, 610 York Blvd., Hamilton

On Remembrance Day we acknowledge the struggle of men and women in their work toward the goal of peace. In honour of this commitment, The Hamilton Military Museum offers free admission.

Sunrise Service – Monday, November 11 7am to 10am

Woodland Cemetery, 700 Spring Garden's Rd., Burlington

Pay tribute to fallen soldiers by placing Canadian Flags on the memorial site and having a sunrise service of remembrance observing two minutes of silence.

Lest We Forget – Monday, November 11 10:30 am - 11:30 am - ARRIVE EARLY - Limited capacity.

Warplane Heritage Museum, 9280 Airport Rd., Mount Hope

Service will also recognize the valiant men and women of today's Canadian Forces who build upon the honoured, sacred legacy of our fallen heroes. Parking and admission free all day.

WHS NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, November 20 7:30 pm

St. John's Anglican Church Hall, Winona

Our annual, make 'n take, holiday decoration workshop. Details on back page.

WHS ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER – Wednesday, December 18 6:30 pm

St. John's Anglican Church Hall, Winona

Please note: this is our regular, third Wednesday.

Tonight's Program

Election 2023

Tonight's the night we choose the board for 2025. This is an important job. First let us be grateful for those dedicated few who have faithfully given their time and energy in past years. That dedication is what keeps our Society alive! Then, let us look ahead to a year where we welcome increased general membership, additional and new board members, and the new ideas each one brings with them. WinHort has survived, even flourished, for 95 years. Will you be one to help her see 100?

Guest Speaker

Alison Ralph describes herself as a writer, editor, podcaster, native plant gardener, photographer, and drinker of fine loose leaf teas! Any one of those activities would offer a world of interest, but tonight Alison is going to engage us with her adventures in native plant gardening.

About five years ago, Alison decided to get into native plant gardening. Having no experience or know-how, she sought guidance from a Master Gardener, Google, and a few incredible books like Lorraine Johnson's *100 Easy-To-Grow Native Plants for Canadian Gardens* and Mary Siisip Geniusz's *Plants Have So Much To Give Us, All We Have To Do Is Ask: Anishinaabe Botanical Teachings*. What followed was a learning experience of things like storm water management, climate change, plants, soil, pests, and health and wellness. As her knowledge grew, so did her passion for the garden, and especially native plants and their relationship and benefits to pollinators.

In her blog, (<https://www.alisonralph.com/blog>), Alison comments that the garden is a place of questions, contemplation, and learning. That space has had a huge impact on her life: it's been, and continues to be a wonderful journey.

Tree Pageant Winners

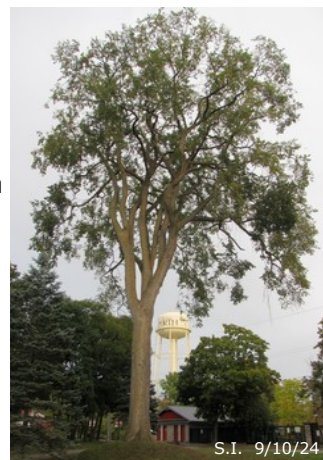
Winners of the first Tree Trust Provincial Tree Pageant were announced at the beginning of October. Photos, and brief description of much-loved trees, were submitted from across Ontario. From 130 online entries, three winning trees, plus an honorable mention, were selected by the panel of judges made up of Mike Schreiner (Green Party leader), Wayne Simpson (award-winning Ojibwe photographer), and CBC journalist Aashta Shetty. Tree Trust Director, Toni Ellis, commented, " ... so many beloved trees, what a testament to the public's affection for trees!"

In top spot is the Great White Oak which stands majestically in front of the Royal Ontario Museum, where it was already well established when Canada's pre-eminent museum opened in 1914.

Second place went to a much-loved, 380-year-old White Oak with a canopy spanning 125 feet. The healthy giant lives in Kingston.

Perth's Stewart Park is home to the third place winner, a majestic White Elm (*pictured at right*). Survivor of the Dutch elm disease, the tree has been a landmark of the park since before its inception in 1947. Honorable mention went to an ancient Apple tree, dubbed "spirit tree" growing in Georgina Township. All entries will remain on display on the Tree Trust website,

<https://treetrust.ca/tree-pageant-2/>, for the rest of the year.



Jumping Worms

Native to East Asia, jumping worms are smooth, glossy gray or brown earthworms that are known for their erratic, thrashing movement and jumping behavior when disturbed. Adults have a pale, smooth ring of reproductive tissue that encircles their body. Called a clitellum, it can be used to distinguish jumping worms from other earthworms, whose clitellum forms a raised saddle shape, rather than encircling the full body. At 7-16 cm in length, adult jumping worms also tend to be larger than most other earthworms. In addition, they grow more quickly and can live in higher densities than other earthworms.

Jumping worms spread through human activities that inadvertently move adults or eggs. These activities include transportation of cargo or goods, movement of potting soil or plants, use as fishing bait, or outdoor recreation.

Jumping worms can be found in forests, parks, backyards, greenhouses, and compost piles, and as of 2022, have been observed in Ontario, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia. They can rapidly change soil properties (e.g., water retention, nutrient cycling) by consuming organic material and producing castings (feces) that look like coarse coffee grounds. These alterations in soil structure make it difficult for many plants to grow, and negatively impact other organisms in the ecosystem like birds, millipedes and salamanders.

There are no legal products currently available to kill these pests, but you can help prevent the spread by learning to identify them, and reporting any you find. Don't buy or use jumping worms for bait, compost or gardening. Don't share soil, compost, or mulch from an area with a known infestation, and check new soil, compost, mulch, and plants for the worms themselves as well as their castings. If you suspect or find an infestation, dispose of contaminated soil in plastic bags in the garbage, destroy worms by freezing them, and rinse the roots of plants. <https://canadainvasives.ca/jumping-worms/>

Hands-on **Holiday** Design Workshop

As the days get shorter and cooler, it's clear that November, and the holiday season will soon be upon us. Time to join in the fun, and make 'n take a holiday arrangement at our next meeting, on **November 20**. We all bring what we are able, then swap and share to create fabulous decorations for our holiday table or yard.

What to bring:

- large outdoor pot or urn, filled with earth or
- small pot fitted with wet floral foam for indoor arrangement or
- swag or wreath forms, or distinctive picture frames and
- fresh-cut evergreen branches, coloured or shapely deciduous branches (ie. dogwood, willow, etc.), rose hips, berry branches, cuttings of spent garden plants or weeds with interesting shapes, etc. Bring extra to swap and share!
- ribbons or other decorations
- pruners
- gloves

No experience necessary – just bring your imagination! We have quite a few knowledgeable members who can help guide you through creating your own distinctive decoration.

Do you have an idea for a special craft or ornament to make from natural materials? Why not suggest it to one of our board members – we're always looking for new ideas to try at our workshop?!

GardenOntario "Sipology" Fall Fund Raiser

For their latest fund raiser, GardenOntario (OHA) is offering "Sipology" beverage products. Loose leaf, flavoured black teas, fruit blends and roibos teas, and hot chocolate come in 50g or 60g packages, (hot chocolate is 100g), for \$15 each. Loose leaf brewing accessories are also available. Shipping is \$3.00 per order. Offer good through November 30. Details at <https://fundraise-ca.sipology.com/collections/ontario-horticultural-association-fall-2024>

Supporting Garden Ontario has never been so delicious!

50/50 Cash Raffle

The winner of the 50/50 raffle on September 28, 2024, was N. Grant from the Nepean Horticultural Society. She won a total of \$2,287.50.

Tickets for the new raffle will be available until December 13th, with the draw taking place on December 14th. Get yours today at <https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/ontario-ha>

Autumn 2024 "Trillium" Is Here!

The OHA Autumn *Trillium* is now available for download at gardenontario.org. It's chock full of beautiful pictures, and lively accounts of what our Ontario hort societies have been up to. Some items of interest are: results from the 2024 Convention competitions (pp. 37-46); a look at the *Vegetable Garden Journal* – OHA fund raiser (p. 48); and an intriguing article called *Planting a Tiny Forest the Miyawaki Way*, an innovative approach to afforestation that calls for density and biodiversity on a small scale (pp. 49-52).

Winona - a Tropical Paradise?

Karen and Glynis, from Winona Gardens, sent us this photo of their resident Bird of Paradise plant, in flower for the first time in 12 years! This awe-inspiring beauty is ceiling height, and recently flowered for a second time.



Members' Corner

As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions. Who would you like to have as future speakers? What kind of topics or activities interest you? Share gardening tips or pictures of your yard or garden. Please, drop us a line, send an e-mail or talk to one of the Board members. This is the 2024 Board:

President – Hélène Brûlé-Besner
905 977-9329 hebrulebesner@gmail.com

Vice-president – Mark Shufflebottom
905 226-3127 shufflebottom.mark@gmail.com

Secretary – position open

Treasurer – Krys Moraal
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