

Flamborough Horticultural Society

March 2026 Newsletter



President's Message

Greetings FHS Members

Thankyou to Sharon Hall, Trudy Bliedung, Erika Friesen, Alan Bewell, Ann Cochren and Verna Scovell who helped me at the Seedy Saturday event in February. We sometimes had four lineups of five people deep waiting for free seeds. The multitude of seeds my native plants produced plus the four boxes of vegetable seeds courtesy of Fortinos, meant we had a lot to share.

In this Newsletter, Liz has shared details of some of our Civic beds. We are looking for volunteers to occasionally help with these beds. Even if it's just an hour of weeding in the spring or helping divide plants that will be appreciated. Jan Bignell also needs a Co-chair for Civic Improvement as she mentors you into the role.

I hope some of you can attend the District 6 AGM. Mel Sawaya will be speaking about Garden Trials and what's new on the landscape. There will be a major flower show and design, prizes, a penny sale and Share the Wealth, Help Paris celebrate its 40th anniversary!

Here's the Link to register for the D6 AGM meeting on Saturday April 25 in Paris our host that is also celebrating it's 40th anniversary. If your first click doesn't go to the form, wait a second or two and then hit "ctrl + enter" at the same time.

Click [HERE](#), this is the LINK to Register For e-transfers, please include your details in the bank's message section.

The Waterdown BIA is requesting our assistance to help them again this year with the Waterdown Core Community Action/ Garden clean up.

Details to follow.

Best Wishes

Susan MacMillan

A poster for the District 6 AGM Spring Meeting and Flower Show. The poster is white with a black border and is set against a background of purple flowers. It features the logos of the Flamborough Horticultural Society and the Paris Horticultural Society. The text on the poster includes the event title, date, time, location, speaker, and registration information.

**District 6 AGM Spring Meeting
and Flower Show**

Saturday, April 25th, 2026

Doors open at 8:30am - Meeting 10:00am to 3:00pm

**Hosted by Paris Horticultural Society
Celebrating Our 40th Anniversary**

Paris Fairgrounds, 139 Silver St. Paris, On.

Speaker: Mel Sawaya Topic: Garden Trials

Door prizes, Penny Sale, Silent Auction and Share the Wealth. Cash please.

\$30 Pre-register by April 10th. EMT to Bob Heil at d6treasurer@outlook.com
or send cheque payable to
Ontario Horticultural Association District 6,
56 Glen Cannon Drive, Stoney Creek, Ont. L8G4E1.

Upcoming Events

Flamborough Horticultural Society Meeting

Date: Wednesday, March 18th

Time: 7:30 pm (refreshments at

7:00pm) **Speaker:** Nancy Colibaba

Topic: Vegetable Gardens



[Purchase tickets here](https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/ontario-ha)

Mark Your Calendars

April 25 District 6 AGM & Luncheon
hosted by Paris. Celebrating their 40th anniversary. Prizes, Penny Sale, Share the Wealth, Flower Show. Register by April 10th.

"Gardening for Life"
2026 OHA Convention & Annual Meeting
hosted by Districts 4 and 17

Dates: July 24-26, 2026

Location: Durham College

As further details become available for the Convention, they will be posted on the [Garden Ontario](https://www.gardenontario.org) website.

Reading Corner

Award winning:
Ontario Nature Magazine
<https://onnaturemagazine.com>

Trillium Newsletter
[Winter Edition](#)

2025 Community Gardens

Jan Bignell has been the chair of Civic Improvement for many years. Under her coordination volunteers from our society and from the community have been developing and tending gardens in Freelon, Carlisle and Waterdown. Thank you, Jan.

Jan at work in the Centennial Garden in Freelon. Hostas and begonias add colour under a maple tree.



Carlisle Gardens

By Trudy Bliedung

In early 2025, Carly Bedford from the Hamilton Public Library contacted the FHS via Susan MacMillan to inquire if we would be able to "do something" with the weed-infested gardens surrounding the previous TD Bank grounds that were donated to become the new Carlisle Library. Volunteers hard at work at the TD Bank garden — Photo below.



I volunteered to take on the project as I live walking-distance of the library. My first step was

to post a plea for volunteers and plant donations on the Carlisle Facebook group. I received 10 responses. I ended up with 6 community volunteers and 2 more FHS Members. Ann Williams and Nina Trevisan helped me with weeding/planting. Nina also donated annuals and perennials. Both Jan Bignell and Susan MacMillan helped with their advice.

It was decided to keep some previously planted shrubs and a row of grasses. Shannon Shipley (who is in the gardening business) got her 2 strong sons to dig out two shrubs which were past their due date, and some of us tried (more or less successfully) to contain the bind weed. As the soil is poor, the library provided a large pile of mulch from the City of Hamilton. I collected a few donated perennials and added the majority from plants left-over from our plant sale.

The Library had asked for pollinator plants but as most of the gardens are in shade or part-shade, we were limited with the choice and availability of suitable plants. A volunteer of the Carlisle Library offered to do the watering over the summer which was greatly appreciated! At the end of the season we were grateful to have had volunteers assist with all of the following tasks:

- Cleaning up the flower beds
- Donating and planting perennials and annuals
- Digging out unwanted shrubs
- Watering the gardens
- Re-planting plants that did not survive
- Weeding during the summer and fall
- Planting daffodil bulbs for spring blooms

Waterdown Gardens

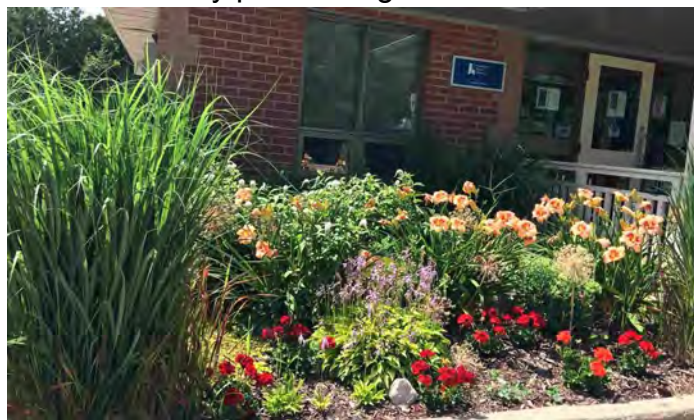
Dundas St. bench garden - a high drought area



In Waterdown volunteers tended gardens on Hamilton St., John St. and Dundas St. Volunteers for the Hamilton and John St. Gardens were Rosanne Waugh, Verna Scovell, Daryl Fletcher and Susan MacMillan. Susan also took on another new flower bed on Hamilton St. on her own at the request of the Business Association. Heather Wilson tended the bench garden on Hwy 5, another dry area. With the unrelenting heat and humidity and lack of rainfall last summer, tending all these gardens was a challenging task!

Freelton Gardens

Freelton Library perennial garden



Liz Henderson and Jan Bignell worked on the Freelton Library and also the garden at the Park where daffodils were planted for spring colour and begonias planted added some colour under the maple tree.



Photo above - pollinator garden was Susan MacMillan's project. **The Waterdown BIA will be looking for volunteers/ team leaders again to help with the Town's spring cleanup of the gardens.**

The Flamborough Horticultural Society also needs more volunteers to help with the civic gardens. Please email us.

March Garden Tasks

Spring 'officially' arrives this month!

- Put your gardening plans on paper. Remember to rotate crops in your vegetable garden to avoid issues with diseases
- If you see some early buds on your forsythias or pussy willows, place them into a vase.
- Start propagating stem cuttings of geraniums, coleus and fuschia by the end of the month.
- Plant slow germinating seeds inside, like impatiens, peppers, eggplants, begonias and geraniums and seeds for early spring blooms such as pansy, verbena, alyssum and dianthus.
- This is a good time to repot houseplants before they begin their spring burst of new growth! If new growth is appearing on plants, fertilize them very lightly.
- Cut back ornamental grasses to 3 to 4 inches before active growth begins. Do not cut carex.

Which Bulbs to Plant in Spring?

Summer bulbs, also called tender bulbs, are planted in spring and flower and leaf out during summer. Gladioli, calla lilies, caladium, begonias, crocosmias, agapanthus and elephant ears are common examples of summer bulbs. Some will bloom later in summer or for a longer time, like dahlias that bloom into the fall. Summer bulbs should only be planted after the ground warms up and there's no longer a threat of frost. If purchased before planting time, store them in a cool, dry spot until planting or start indoors.

[Top 10 bulbs to Plant in Spring](#)

Early Spring Caveat!

As the days get warmer we may feel the urge to begin work in our gardens! However, you may be causing damage in spite of your good intentions! If the soil has thawed in the area you choose to work in, then it is important to protect the soil. Standing on newly thawed, wet soil will

compact it causing damage. If you are working in a flower bed, stand or kneel on a piece of wood to distribute your weight. Inspect your plants regularly. Some perennials heave out of the ground during the freeze/thaw cycle. Gently press them back into the thawed earth. Aggressive raking can harm delicate roots and pull out plants. Leave debris to protect your plants and to feed the worms. Stay off the lawn if possible – leave raking until the soil is drier.

Innovation Award

Cathy Kavassalis and Claudette Sims (both Master Gardeners) of the Canadian Coalition Invasive Plant Regulations (CCIPR) were recognized with an Innovation Award at the 2026 Annual Invasive Species Centre Forum held in February. Cathy and Claudette have transformed invasive plant prevention by mobilizing and empowering home gardeners across Canada with science-based resources and advocacy tools, building a volunteer-driven movement that now includes over 100 partners and endorsing organizations. Read more about CCIPR here:

[Canadian Coalition Invasive Plant Regulations](#)
[Canadian Invasive Plant Lists](#)
[Invasive Plants](#)

“In Our Nature” Free Native Plant Resources

The long range forecast for March is average to below average temperatures which gives us time indoors to work on garden planning. Our March speaker will provide ideas for vegetable gardens. The Native Plant Resource website is a comprehensive wealth of information for planning and maintaining native gardens. It provides information to aid in choosing native plants for specific garden conditions such as soil types and light conditions as well as interest for all seasons — even suggestions for deer and rabbit resistant plants. Native plant profiles are also included. The third section deals with native plant garden design ideas and information such as pollinator garden designs, secrets to low maintenance gardens, formal garden design with native plants and natural garden design.

[Native Plant Resources](#)

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. **(Opens late April, 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

Join Facebook

[Flamborough Horticultural Society Group](#)

[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 2025/26

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 - Ann Cochren

Director at large - Christine Rowe

Director at large - Verna Scovell

Director at large - Sharon Hall

Director Membership- Harbir Hundal

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

Our Society is one of 21 Societies/ Clubs that make up District 6 of the Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA). Each society has a representative in the District (Assistant District Director who represents the District Director), The ADD attends the Society AGM, installs officers and brings news from the OHA and the District. The ADD (or District Secretary) is also the contact between the District and the Society for questions that may arise: [Events Link](#)