

London Fanshawe Horticultural Society (LFHS)
where people grow with their gardens

President's Message

Spring is always a busy time in the garden as nature comes to life, and we strive to turn our gardening plans into reality. The cool May we've experienced so far has slowed most things down—except for the grass and weeds!

It has also been a very active time for our Society. A large number of you attended our April meeting at Parkway Gardens. All those plants were eye candy for gardeners, and many took advantage of the opportunity to do some early-season shopping. Our May meeting featured Heather Jerrard, who informed and entertained us in her typically enthusiastic style. That same evening, in less than an hour, Bev's team sold out tickets for our much-anticipated June bus trip, and members purchased over 400 Supertunias. A busy night!

The very next day, we began preparations for the Plant Sale. As you'll see in this issue, the sale was a huge success. My thanks to all of you who helped out in any way—you should be proud of your contribution to this popular fundraiser. Willing volunteers, who contributed some 800 hours to this event alone, makes working with LFHS such a pleasure. Special thanks to Marilyn Lyons as we transition leadership this year—she has taken up the reins to lead.

Looking ahead, I hope you can join us for our June meeting. It will be a member appreciation fun night—an old-fashioned strawberry social. We also have three garden walks planned for this summer. We appreciate our hosts for opening their gardens for our enjoyment.

A final highlight: our membership has grown to 224 members in 2025—a record high for LFHS and a sign of a thriving society!

Thanks to our editor, Joanne, and assistants Ola, Maureen and Linda for putting together this engaging newsletter. Enjoy!

Wishing you a successful gardening summer—remember to take time to appreciate it. *"In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks."* – John Muir

Yours in gardening,

Bob Crowhurst



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LFHS

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LFHS Meetings

April

Garden Sale Preparations: Our April meeting found us at Parkway Gardens. Henri greeted members with a "leave some, take some" empty pots table for members to get ready to plant up for the plant sale. Mary Ann and staff introduced some ideas for the 2025 growing season. They very generously donated 6 amazing door prizes too! The winners were happy and members were also able to shop to their hearts content. Thank you, Lynne and staff, for an enjoyable experience.



May



Well, the weather cooperated, and our busy May meeting was a success! First, the sale of the supertunias at 6...Valsa, Brian and Ann were busy helping members get a great deal. 🚗

The bus trip was sold out in record time ..more details to follow!



Guest Speaker: Heather Jerrard

Heather Jerrard spoke about low maintenance gardens



LFHS Member Sharing Spotlight:

Brian Trapp shared his success with growing a variety of plants with mushroom turkey poop! 🍄 🐔

I'll bet he's aiming for the Guinness World Record!

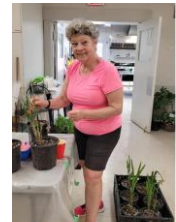


LFHS Plant Sale

According to our **LFHS** Constitution, the purpose of the London Fanshawe Horticultural Society is to “encourage interest and improvement in horticulture through: the planting and distributing of trees, plants, flowers, bulbs and shrubs, promoting community gardening and outdoor beautification and stimulating an interest in the study of horticulture.” The Plant Sale is at the core of how we achieve those objectives.

The Plant Sale is the **LFHS** 's major fund raiser. The money goes to:

- Scholarships at Clarke Road Secondary School and Fanshawe College for future horticulturalists
- Providing plants/compost for student projects. This year, we donated to Ealing Public School, Stoney Creek Public School, and Louise Arbour Public School
- Community efforts, like Constitution Park, and various donations promoting gardening and horticulture
- Society operations
- Maintaining low Membership Fee



But the Plant Sale isn't just a fund raiser; it is a delightful community event enjoyed by our neighbours, family and friends. Some comments from our customers: “Best plant sale in London”, “I look forward to this every year”, “Oh dear, I just bought these at a nursery. I wish that I had waited because these plants look better. “

And the new, aspiring gardeners are so cute. One little girl spent her tooth fairy money to buy a lemon tree seedling and a strawberry plant. A young boy got free seeds and couldn't wait to get home to plant them. And a small girl bought her first plant ever from the “Tomato Lady”

The Bottom Line was impressive: 2000 plants, 400 bags of compost, and 500 supertunias for \$9000 in sales. But the true lasting impression of our plant sale will be the perennials that get planted to beautify London homes for decades, the good food that people will grow and eat all summer long, and the memories of the young gardeners just getting started on their horticultural journey.

As the new Plant Sale Captain, I'm amazed by what this Society achieved at the 2025 **LFHS** Plant Sale. We had dozens of members dedicate their time and skills into making this event a success. Every year we try to do a bit better. This year, the members made an effort to carpool, get dropped off, or park offsite which greatly helped alleviate traffic congestion. The condition and variety of the donated plants was the best ever, including many native plants. We had 3 trolleys lent by members for the set-up and sale. And we had 22 people work to get the compost bagged in record time. Overall, the operations went smoothly because of you, the volunteers. I want to extend a great, big, heartfelt THANK YOU!

By Marilyn Lyons



Enjoy gardening

Volunteer Events



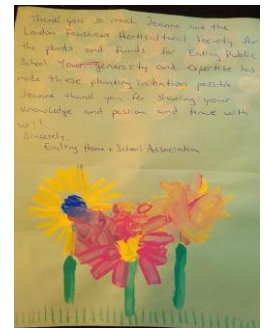
It was a busy day for the students at **Clarke Road S.S.** They had sold out of their tomatoes and other vegetables by the time I arrived but still had some lovely annuals and house plants. Amy was busy helping out and I hope they were pleased with the turnout



Ealing Public School is in my neighborhood, and I noticed on my daily walks that the garden badly needed an update. I met Megan, who is one of their Home and School executives and we discussed what might be done about it. I spoke with the Board and presented her plan to renovate the garden and with a \$200.00 donation and \$200.00 of plants in kind from the **LFHS** sale we were able to refresh the beds. The weeds and grasses were dug out, then landscape fabric laid, followed by the planting of perennials and bulbs, then mulch. Many hands helped including Paula, Dana, 2 Home & School members, the School Principal Ivana Lukacova and help from 14 grade eight students.



The raised beds are in the kindergarten area and two classes were a part of the planting team. I was surprised at how eager they all were to help! We bought marigolds and petunias for some instant colour. The strawberries, lavender and herbs were a hit. They were excited to water the plants and make puddles and splash around! So much fun!



By Joanne Sanborn



I've got a confession to make. **I'm a dirty girl.**

Oh, I know, I don't look like that kind of girl but really, behind closed doors one can never actually tell, right? But I should say behind garden gates, not doors.

For when I'm in my yard I'm guaranteed to get mud on some piece of clothing so I just accept that and make sure that I have my gardening clothes on, which used to be my work clothes. The scruffier the better. Hat, gloves, long sleeved shirt and pants. Then, nothing stops me - I'm not thinking of anything but getting the weeds out or the plants in or transplanted. And since we have sandy soil, not clay, which is wretched to work in, I can clean up easily afterwards.

My secret cleaning agent is a plant-based bar by Buncha Farmers called "The Best All-Natural stain remover on the market". It's the best at pre-treating blood, blueberries, mustard, grease, you name it. So, get your comfortable garden clothes on, some sunscreen, a cool glass of water and get dirty!



Enjoy gardening

Garden Walk

A Peony Haven in Our Midst

For our first **LFHS** members' garden walk of the season, the weather may not have been ideal—but the peonies and our gracious hosts made up for it.

Jen and Goran Prgesa welcomed us to their beautiful hillside property on the outskirts of Thorndale, where gardens blend effortlessly with the contours of the land. While the slope presents certain challenges (lawn mowing among them!), it also offers good views and unique opportunities for garden design. The result is a landscape that both surprises and delights.

When Jen and Goran moved here 13 years ago, there was just a single peony on the property. Today, Jen has nurtured a magnificent collection of over 200 peonies. While the cool, blustery Saturday kept many blooms tightly furled, those that did open were simply spectacular offering a preview of beauty to come.



Jen gardens on heavy clay soil, and she says she neither pampers nor fertilizes her peonies. And yet, her plants thrive—a testament to her knowledge and passion. Her peonies have even taken home prizes at peony shows, a well-deserved recognition of her expertise. I was struck by the wide array of carefully labeled varieties, each nicely spaced to allow its form and colour to shine. The plants were robust, the foliage healthy, and the blooms were stunning.

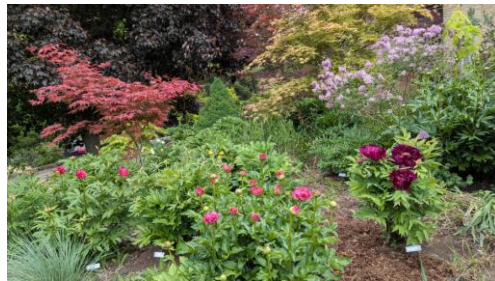
Jen by one of her gardens

Among my favourites were: the charming Little Rhyme; a tree peony, Chromatella/Kinshi with its unusual yellow/apricot hues; Kokuryu Nishiki which translates to 'black dragon'.

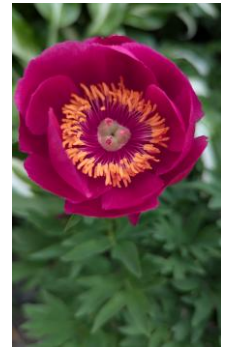
Congratulations to Jen and Goran for cultivating such an inspiring garden. And a big thank you to both for opening it for us to enjoy.

Beautiful Landscaping

By Ola Nowosad



Jen and members



At our **LFHS** March meeting, Darren Heimbecker of **Whistling Gardens** showcased a peony garden which features North America's largest collection of peonies with 1300 different varieties. Now is a perfect time to visit his peony gardens as well.

Also Of Interest: Podcasts, Links and More

**Here is a short but comprehensive and science-based podcast. Gardeners can reduce mosquito populations around our homes with simple methods. Perfect to listen to as mosquito season gears up!

<https://awaytogarden.com/best-practices-around-mosquitos-with-nancy-lawson/>

By Maureen Beemish

**Article on native flowers of interest.

<https://blog.bigyellowbag.com/native-flowers/>



By Ann Larkin

Check out the link for a Waterloo, Ont. Guinness Record holder for the most **orchid blooms! Fantastic!! Bloomin' talented gardener grows stunning orchid with record 159 flowers | Guinness World Records

<https://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/news/2024/8/bloomin-talented-gardener-grows-stunning-orchid-with-record-159-flowers>

By Joanne Sanborn

**From Brambles to Beauty: 37 years of gardening

Members John and Lois McLeod's property has been captured in all of its Spring glory. Enjoy this 2nd video of their amazing garden as featured in this YouTube link.

https://youtube.com/watch?v=KA4iW-YHarY&si=TdP7_Scpm6d-31qd



Traveler: What kind of weather are we going to have today?

Shepherd: The kind of weather I like.

Traveler: How do you know it will be the kind of weather you like?

Shepherd: Having found out, sir, I cannot always get what I like, I have learned always to like what I get. So, I am quite sure we will have the kind of weather I like.

By Anthony de Mello

Many thanks to all **LFHS** members for the fantastic support for our activities. We couldn't do it without you.

Joanne Sanborn