

WINONA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



Newsletter

Summer 2023



Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer!

Lazy, maybe? ...
crazy, always! ...
and this summer, definitely hazy!!

Smoke from distant wildfires, humidity haze, and that brain fog that comes from too many things to do and not enough time to fit them in!

How's your "purple haze" coming? With purple as the official colour of the 2023 Year of the Garden, I found myself watching out for purple plants every time I shopped. I was amazed by all I found! Purple cabbages, and eggplants have been my go to for years but this summer I added purple (maroon hued) romaine lettuce, and purple tomatoes as well. The tomatoes are called "Midnight snack" – the fruits start off pure black, then turn to a deep purplish-red when ripe!

My flower beds boasted purple pansies, lavender sage blossoms, amethyst iris, indigo clematis, and pinky-plum lambs ears. Soon I will have some Mona Lavender blooming as a back drop to my claret-hued alternanthera. From veggies and flowers, to purple sunsets, what a wonderful, diverse palette of purples!

I'd love to see what variety of purple plants are growing in your garden. Please send me photos for inclusion in future Newsletters.



Stories of Redemption and Resurrection

Some plants are just meant to live! I was sure my favourite, purple oxalis did not survive the winter. Even though I knew it was normal for it to have a dormant period, to me it looked, for all intents and purposes, dead. :(

There was absolutely no growth on top, and when I dug around in the soil it felt like there was nothing underneath either.

So I did what anyone would do – I dumped it on the compost pile.

Look what greeted me in July!



People say you can't kill a zucchini, and here's the proof. When I thought the seeds I'd planted were not going to come up, I replanted. Of course, I was just a bit too impatient, because pretty soon I had three plants growing in each hole. Arggh!! They were already big, and I didn't want to disturb the roots, so I cut off the unwanted plants just below soil level, and added them to the compost pile. About a month later, those refugees were sporting flowers and baby fruits. Survival of the fittest? You bet!!

Joy – August 11, 2023

Notices and Events

ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS

680 Plains Road, Burlington

Shop@theGardens sale until September 3 10 am to 5 pm

Save up to 50% off on select gardening items and linens. Sale books are buy 3 get the 4th free! Your purchase supports the Gardens! 100% of the proceeds from purchases at Shop at the Gardens supports RBG's work in plant science and conservation, horticulture, and education.

Sunday evening music in Hendrie Park – Sundays until August 27 6:30 to 9 pm

Bring a lawn chair or pack a blanket, grab a cold drink and enjoy performances featuring local and award-winning musicians in our lovely garden setting.

Tour: A Rose Garden Daily until September 4 1 tour daily at 1 pm

Join a Garden Interpreter to discover what makes our innovative and sustainable Rose Garden so special. Meet at the Reflecting Pools, [Hendrie Park](#).

Tour: Healing Trees (Rock Garden) Weekends until September 5

Join a Garden Interpreter to explore the healing power of trees. 3 tours, Friday to Sunday: 11 am, 1 pm, & 3 pm

RBG offers a great lineup of fun, and educational programs for all ages. Call 905 527-1158 or visit their website www.rbg.ca To borrow the WHS member's passes contact H  l  ne or Krysl.

GARDEN JOURNEYS OPEN DAYS – August 10 - 12 & 17 - 20

Various locations in the Hamilton area.

Garden Journey Open Days brings together gardeners, aspiring gardeners, and garden lovers in an open-gardens event in Hamilton. Under the umbrella of the Halton Region Master Gardeners, **Garden Journeys is free** for visitors. **It's not a tour—you don't need to register and you don't need tickets.** Just choose which gardens you want to visit and find the dates and times that suit you, then just show up! All are welcome. Go to <https://haltonmastergardeners.com/garden-journeys-open-days/> for interactive map and full details.

WINONA PEACH FESTIVAL – Friday, August 25 to Sunday, August 27

Winona Park, Winona

Have you bought your 50/50 tickets yet? They're available at Winona Gardens or check the website (www.winonapeach.com) for other locations.

WHS needs volunteers to help set up before Festival, as well as "man" the booth during it. The shifts are only a few hours long, with volunteers scheduled in twos or threes, so you will never be alone.– please contact H  l  ne with your availability.

Do you have plants to donate? Please let us know so we can arrange to pick up or receive them.

GAGE PARK TROPICAL GREENHOUSE

1000 Main St. E., Hamilton, ON

A unique destination in beautiful Gage Park that gives visitors a way to escape to a lush, tropical setting, no matter the season Browse a huge collection of subtropical plants, rare species, and soaring palm trees as you stroll past a turtle pond, fish pond, and waterfall. End your visit by exploring the greenhouse's beautiful park surroundings. <https://www.hamilton.ca/attractions/culture/gage-park-greenhouse>

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH: The Arboretum – fall programs

The Arboretum is offering workshops this fall covering a wide variety of topics from birds to mushrooms to gardening to art. Virtual programs are offered live on Zoom, and recordings are made available for registrants to access for a limited time. You can view a complete list of The Arboretum's programs at <https://www.arboretum.uoguelph.ca/arboretum-workshop-descriptions>

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

St. John's Anglican Church Hall, Winona

Speaker and topic TBA

*"The way I see it, if you want the rainbow,
you gotta put up with the rain."*

Dolly Parton

Photo by Ryan Inch



Volunteers at Work in our Community Plantings

Did you know that WinHort maintains two raised bed gardens at St. John's church, and one across the road at the Winona Post Office? Originally built as a Bicentennial project in 1984, volunteers from the Society have planted, weeded, and refurbished these gardens ever since. At one time there were gardens on each of the four corners (of the intersection), "home turf" of the WHS since its inception, but now it is just the two sites. This year we were grateful to our new member, Mike, for overseeing the necessary amendments, as well as pitching in with shovel and trowel. The rest of the work crew included Ryan, Krys, Rien, Greta, and Joy. Thank you, all!



One of the church beds, with original 1984 plaque.



Mike and Ryan having fun after a good day's planting.



Winona Post Master, Shelley, poses with Mike. She loved the garden's new look.

Outing to Whistling Gardens

On June 9, a few of us embraced the rain, and toured the lovely, botanical haven called Whistling Gardens. This expanse of 20+ acres, the dream child of Darren Heimbecker, is home to North America's largest peony collection, North America's largest conifer collection and one of Canada's largest computer run fountain shows. We were fortunate to be there at the peak of peony season, and revelled in the magnificence of colours, shapes and sizes.



Also in bloom was the cactus garden.

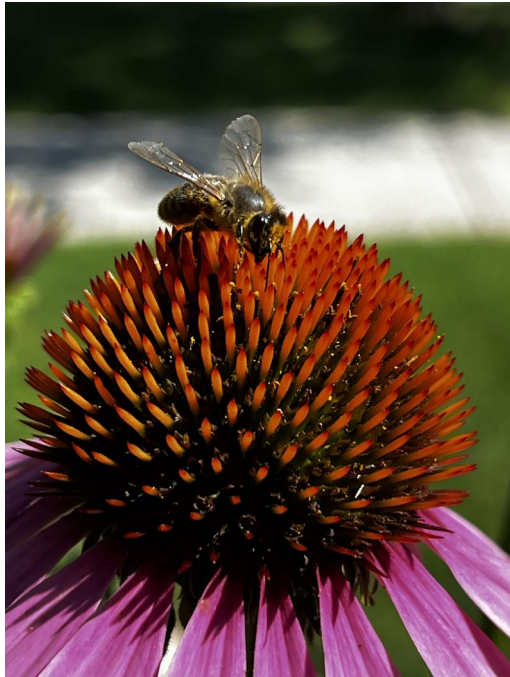


The fountain show, with its 100+ jets of water, shooting artistically skyward, accompanied by Darren's original musical scores, was a treat to watch. It should be even more spectacular after dark, when the fountains will be illuminated by custom-built lights. Opening night for this event is August 26. <https://whistlinggardens.ca/>

Photos on this page are from Joy's phone

Life is Good

Member Maggie Martin has been enjoying the beauty of summer and shares a few gorgeous photos with us! Thanks, Maggie!



OHA "Trillium" Magazine

The Summer edition of the *Trillium* is available at gardenontario.org, to view or download, and it's a good one! On the cover is a glorious photo, by Sandra Cruzo, from the Pelham Garden Club, of a white and fuchsia coloured peony. The caption reads "Celebrate Peony Season", and mentions that the Pelham club had toured Whistling Gardens to see the more than 600 varieties of peony.

There are messages from OHA President, Charles Freeman, Secretary, Kelly Taylor, as well as one from Laura Masterson, the mag's editor, and interspersed with items of OHA business you can take in colourful accounts of the activities of many of OHA's hort societies and garden clubs. Schomberg's report (page 36) is particularly interesting, showing off their innovative approach to virtual presentations. Also in this edition is the excellent study "Twenty Great Native Groundcovers - Part II" by Cynthia B. Lauer, PhD (Sociology), member, Simcoe County Master Gardeners. (page 28) All in all, it's a great read!

"Just living is not enough... one must have sunshine, freedom, and a little flower."

Hans Christian Andersen

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 2023 Board:

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

Vice-president – position open

Secretary – position open

Treasurer – Krys Moraal
905 643-4592 krysm@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor &
Past President – Joy Brunel
905 643-3073 potsherds@gmail.com

Directors:
Georgina Beattie Ryan Inch
Anne Bono Maggie Martin
Greta Carpenter Rien Moraal
 Rosemary Salisbury

Mailing address: WHS
P. O. Box 10596
Winona, ON L8E 5R1

Website: <https://gardenontario.org/society-listing/entry/553/>