

WINONA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



Newsletter

October 2023



Why would we want to rock our garden?

The convention had the usual elections, business sessions, and competitions. Many awards were given and people honoured.



New this year is that Co-operators Insurance now offers Home and Auto packages to OHA members, which means every WinHort member is eligible.

That was my question before going to Ottawa this summer :D
I love rocks, collect them everywhere, but rocks don't grow you know...

Convention was in person again, and what a relief! Just as virtual gardening is so not the same as getting your hands dirty and your muscles moving.

It's the same with convention. The community, the people, the ideas, there is nothing like it.

Membership counts :)



Next year convention is in Guelph.



It turns out that the Ottawa Valley is a geological treasure trove. We learned about rocks visited caves and went rock collecting.



WinHort is happy to help you get there!

This is the idea I took home from convention, rocks and lights :D

Hélène

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Notices and Events

ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS

680 Plains Road, Burlington

The Great Pumpkin Trail – October 20-22; 27-29 Time-ticketed event starting at 5:30 pm

Celebrating 10 years of magic, the Great Pumpkin Trail returns to RBG! Follow the candlelit glow of hundreds of jack-o-lanterns deep within the recesses of the Hendrie Valley. Enjoy live entertainment, pumpkin themed activities and fall inspired treats. New to this year's event, guests will venture down a new pathway and emerge upon a mini midway exhibition, featuring rides and inflatables set upon Cherry Hill Gate.

Dressing up is optional, but definitely encouraged! Food and beverage will be available for purchase.

Pre-purchase tickets online. Time slots fill up quickly! Adults (13 & up) \$25 (+ HST and \$1 Service Fee)

Children (4-12) \$18 (+ HST & Service Fee) Toddlers Free (but must have ticket)

RBG After Dark: Boos & Brews – Thursday, October 26 6-11 pm

Hendrie Park transforms under the cover of darkness for an exclusive, adult-only Halloween celebration to send a chill up your spine! Don your Halloween best, especially if you intend on jumping on stage with Good Enough Live Karaoke, for a song in the Tent of Rock! Enjoy the music and fun as you explore the autumn nightscape of Royal "Boo"tanical Gardens! **This is a 19+ event. Event tickets required.** Adults \$25 (+ HST & \$1 Service Fee) Students (19+) \$22 (+ HST & Service Fee)

Let's Go Birding (for beginners): Sunday, Oct 28; November 12 & 26 9am to 12 noon

Lead by instructor, Catherine Manschot, beginner birders will learn how to identify a variety of birds in the field, using features such as colour, size, shape, behaviour, habitat, and bird song. Sessions take place in a variety of habitats on RBG lands, including the Arboretum, Hendrie Valley, Princess Point, or Rock Chapel.

Joy of Birding (Intermediate): October 21 & 24; November 5 & 18 9am to 12 noon

Join Catherine Manschot and other birders to explore the use of field marks, behaviour, taxonomy, timing, calls, songs, and habitat preferences to identify species in the field.

Groups for both programs are limited to 12 people, and registration is required at least two days prior.

\$20 (+ Service Fee + HST) per person, per session. Other fall dates are also available.

The Potting Bench – Saturday and Sundays 10:30 am to 4:30 pm

Stop by 'The Potting Bench' during your next visit to learn about what goes on behind the scenes in the greenhouse. Whether you're a seasoned gardener or just plain curious, drop in for interactive demos with knowledgeable volunteers. They'll be covering topics such as seed planting, soil preparation, propagation, and more! Included with general admission.

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 el ene.

HAMILTON FALL GARDEN & MUM SHOW – October 20-29 9am to 7pm daily

Gage Park Greenhouse, Hamilton

This year's theme is "Medieval Mums". Tickets available at the door and online tickets coming soon.

Adults \$8 Seniors/Kids \$7 <https://www.hamilton.ca/things-do/festivals-events/fall-garden-mum-show>

WHS BOARD MEETING – Wednesday, October 25 7pm

At Anne's.

DISTRICT 6 FALL DINNER – Saturday, November 4 6 pm (doors open 5:30 pm)

223 Nichol St. W., Waterford, ON

Guest speaker: Kellie Moodie, "All About Bees!"

PEACH FESTIVAL VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER – Tuesday, November 17

Galileo's Garden

Anyone who volunteered at our tent is eligible to attend this dinner. Hors d'oeuvres from 6-7 pm, followed by dinner. Tickets are \$30. Please see Greta or H el ene tonight if you are interested.

WHS NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, November 15 7:30 pm

St. John's Anglican Church Hall, Winona

Hands on, holiday design workshop.

WHS ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER – Wednesday, December 20 6:30 pm

St. John's Anglican Church Hall, Winona

Please note: this is our regular, third Wednesday, meeting day, not a week earlier as in other years!

*"Autumn is the time of year when Mother Nature says,
"Look how easy, how healthy, and how beautiful letting go can be."*

— Toni Sorenson

Tonight's Program

Election 2023

Tonight's the night we choose the board for 2024. With our 95th Anniversary coming up next year, our horticultural society will need as many enthusiastic people as we can get! Plans are already under way for exciting ways to celebrate, but there could be many opportunities to help out.

Judy Gurman has agreed to officiate again tonight, and will call for nominations from the floor. It's your chance to do your part, so stand up and be counted! Or if you're shy, ask the person sitting beside you to nominate you. Please, show us your desire to see the WHS continue and flourish!

Guest Speaker

Paul Knowles, is a gardener, world traveler, author, and speaker. In addition to writing a weekly travel column for five southern Ontario newspapers, Paul has written gardening, humor, travel and feature articles for many publications and websites. His work has won national and international awards. He is the author of 18 books, including most recently, *The Magic Garden* (2020), a whimsical and humorous look at gardening, and *The Dun Also Rises* (2021), his second murder mystery.

Paul is President of the Travel Media Association of Canada, an organization that includes 400 travel media professionals. He also organizes and leads an annual group trip abroad – in May, 2024, the tour will include Wales and the Cotswolds.

Paul's hobbies include gardening, pickleball, cooking, reading, golf, music, wine tasting, and avoiding power tools.

Paul's presentation this evening is called "Digging Deeper: finding the magic in your garden." Afterward, he will have copies of three of his books to sell – *The Magic Garden*, and two mysteries. The cost is \$20 (one of the mysteries is only \$15), cash only.

Extend the beauty of your garden through fall and into winter

Are your gardens all tucked in for winter? Or are you still enjoying the sights, sounds, and smells of autumn beauty? Many flowers and ornamental shrubs come into their glory in the fall. Bold splashes of red, white, yellow, orange and purple colour the landscape.

Lots of the fall and winter birds have returned, and enjoy feasting on seed-heads left behind. Leave those spent flowers in the garden (or at least some of them) as a source of food and shelter for the birds and animals.

It's also not too late to plant shrubs that will add four season interest to your garden. As the gardening season winds down, fall is the last call for filling in those bare spots in your landscaping with a beautiful shrub or two. Look for plants that offer fall

and winter interest: eye-catching foliage, colourful berries, captivating shapes.

Above all, don't forget to appreciate what you've got. Revel in the wild asters and the autumn leaves. Pluck that last rose bud to grace your table. Breathe in the fall's heady fragrances of earth, air and (bon)fire. And know that after winter will come Spring. JB

Kathy Ward sends these photos (taken in early October) of the Japanese anemone she bought at Peach Festival some years ago. It's obviously happy to be alive. So is the red Mandevilla.



Joy's dahlia has never looked better, and will keep blooming until frost, before being lifted and stored for the winter, waiting for renewed life next summer.



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 15**. 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?!

Winona Gardens' Gnome Building Workshops

In addition to their traditional urn workshops, this year, Winona Gardens is hosting gnome building workshops. For a nominal charge, they will supply you with everything you need to create a unique, new "friend" to keep you company this holiday season. For dates, and details, visit <https://winona-gardens.myshopify.com>

Oak Tree Health

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) needs your help as a leading voice in the field of tree and plant health.

Oak wilt has been found in Canada, specifically in the province of Ontario. CFIA is strongly advising arborists and landscapers **not to prune oak trees until November** to help prevent the spread of oak wilt.

As you may be aware, oak wilt is a disease that can cause serious damage to Canada's oak tree population.

There are several pathways by which oak wilt can spread, including:

- via root grafting, where the fungus travels through the interconnected roots of infected and healthy trees growing in close proximity;
- via insects, such as sap and bark beetles that carry spores of the fungus from an infected tree to a healthy one
- human-assisted spread through the movement of things such as firewood and pruning during high-risk periods.

This is why the CFIA is asking the public not to prune oak trees between April and November, as oak trees are at high risk for oak wilt infection during this time.

By working together, we can help ensure Canadians are well-informed on the signs and symptoms of oak wilt and how to report sightings. For more information, go to

<https://inspection.canada.ca/plant-health/invasive-species/plant-diseases/oak-wilt/eng/1325624048625/1325624535106>

OHA 50/50 Draw

The next draw is Dec. 16, final sale date Dec 15.

Purchase tickets at this link, and good luck!!

<https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/ontario-ha>

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:

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Secretary – position open

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