

Your Georgina-Brock Garden Club Newsletter

November 2023



Sharing the Beauty

Gardening season is basically over for the year, except for a few unfinished tasks that nag at us until they are done. I'm enjoying the slowing-down that November brings and realizing I no longer think of November as a grey and dreary month. My perception has changed; I'm noticing many hidden charms and delighted with subtle energies in Nature. Have a closer look - what are you discovering about November?

Our December meeting is one of my favourites. I love sampling all the delicious foods that members contribute to the annual potluck dinner. It's a social evening as well as entertaining, with a seasonal

demonstration, door prizes and awards, including a short business portion and swearing in our 2024 Board of Directors. I'm happy to say two new Directors will be joining our team.

Doors will open at 5:30pm. Come early to help set-up tables and chairs and to warm up your dish in the kitchen; buffet dinner service begins at 6:30pm. GBGC will provide beverages (coffee, tea, lemon water). Please bring your own dishes, cutlery, and mug to reduce waste and kitchen clean-up. You are invited to pay your 2024 membership dues at our December 11th meeting. Dues have increased to \$20 single and \$25 family. The small increase was necessary to cover our cost of liability insurance through Ontario Horticultural Association.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in December.

Denise, President GBGC
denisejsheedy@gmail.com

Christmas Party & Potluck Dinner

*It's Georgina-Brock Garden Club's
Annual Potluck Dinner!*

**Celebrate our fiscal year end (AGM)
& our members' 2023 achievements.**

**Bring your favourite homemade
dish to share plus your mug, cutlery
& plate. Always a fun evening!**



**Monday, December 11
Pefferlaw Lions Hall**

38 Pete's Lane

**Potluck & AGM at 6:30 pm,
Demonstration at 7:30 pm**



*Mike Gibbs
of Mike Gibbs Design
in Cannington, will demonstrate
how to make a
Holiday Kissing Ball.
You could win the kissing ball or
one of the many door prizes!*

*A garden is a
delight to the eye
and a solace
for the soul.
~ Saadi ~*

November Gardening Journal

with Mark Cullen

Winterize your roses. Hybrid teas, floribundas, grandifloras and miniatures all need to be mounded up with fresh triple mix about 60 to 80 cm high. A rose collar helps to mound the soil high enough to do the job very well.

No need to mound winter hardy shrub roses and climbers that are planted next to the wall of your home. Climbers growing against a fence should be mounded to be on the safe side. Leave this job until hard frost has hit the ground and before it pushes deep.

Spiral wrap around fruit tree trunks. Prevent rodent damage and sun scald. Non- fruiting fruit trees like purple leafed plum, crabapples and flowering cherry fall into this category too.

Wrap burlap around cedars, yews, boxwood and all broadleaf evergreens. Two layers is best: one to buffer wind and the other to insulate from the drying and burning effects of the sun, reflecting off snow.

Empty your compost. Spread the finished 'good' stuff on your garden. No need to turn it under, though you can if you want to. Earthworms will do the job come spring.

Fill your compost. Dump your fallen leaves and spent annuals and tomato plants in the compost bin.

Water. You will soon shut off the outdoor faucets to prevent freezing, but before you do, be sure that established plants in your yard are well watered. We have had reasonable amounts of rain this fall, but the evergreens and shrubs under the eave and soffit of your home are protected from most rain. Be sure to soak all permanent plants deeply before the freeze up. Truth is, being frozen in ice is better insulation than dry soil.

Holiday Kissing Balls

Kissing balls, have their origins in the Middle Ages. Villagers would create ball-shaped ornaments made of twine and evergreen branches. Called "holy boughs," they were hung from the ceiling along passages in castles and large houses. They were said to render blessings to those who passed beneath.



During the Victorian era, the kissing ball and other evergreen arrangements came back into fashion, but in a different way.

Sprigs of holly, evergreen, and sweet herbs would be stuck into a potato or apple until it bristled with natural decorations. These deliciously scented "sweet balls" brought welcome fragrance to people's dwellings. As was common during the Victorian period, the herbs and plants depicted love, affection, charity, piety, or a variety of other emotions, and by the end of the 19th century, kissing balls represented romantic love. Ballrooms were often adorned with kissing balls hung from the ceiling. Sometimes a sprig of mistletoe was added, and unmarried maidens would line up, awaiting their chance to stand beneath it and receive a kiss! Kissing balls began to disappear during the 20th century, with mistletoe remaining on its own as the symbol of romance and love. However, over the last few years, they've made another comeback, and now they're all the rage for holiday parties.

Join us Monday, December 11 to learn how to make a Holiday Kissing Ball.

What's Happening:

Monday, Dec. 4, Cannington Horticultural Society, *AGM and Photo Show*, Cannington Baptist Church, 7:30 pm

If you have any suggestions for upcoming newsletters just contact kathiecb3@gmail.com



Effective Dec. 1, 2023:
Annual membership
\$20 single, \$25 family

Contact jangosborne@gmail.com

Everyone Welcome

Join Us On



Garden Ontario
KEEPING ONTARIO BEAUTIFUL