

Bring Your...favourite homemade dish to our Christmas Potluck. Don't forget your cutlery, plate, mug and of course, your appetite!

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!*



**Monday,
November 13,
2023**

**Tonight We Welcome Professional Photographer,
Chris Campbell, Seeing Like A Professional.**



Chris has worked with a wide range of styles of photography, from portraits, wedding, sports, editorial and advertising, but now specializes in food and travel photography.

Interested since childhood, Chris continues to challenge himself to always keep creative by bringing a camera with him wherever he goes while learning new styles, editing techniques and keeping current.

Chris is also the owner operator of Hiveshare in Sutton.

Holiday Kissing Balls

Decorating with fresh-cut evergreens has been a beloved tradition for centuries and still is today.

Kissing balls, have their origins in the Middle Ages. Villagers would create ball-shaped ornaments made of twine and evergreen branches. In the centre, they would place a clay figure of an infant representing the baby Jesus. 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.



With the new religious fervor sweeping through England and Europe from the 17th through the early 19th centuries, such decorations were frowned upon. But many people yearned for the beauty and symbolism of those traditional accents, and 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.

Mulching Tips

Before you get out the shovel and trowel, here are a few things to consider prior to applying mulch around trees or in your garden beds:

- Once you begin mulching stay with it. Removing a layer of mulch will dry out the soil and potentially injure the roots.
- There are generally two periods for proper mulching. A layer of mulch maintained at two inches thick should be applied to your garden beds in the spring after the ground has thawed. A second mulch application in the fall after the ground is frozen will further insulate and protect plants.
- Mounding the mulch around trees is a common mistake. Mounding mulch against a tree's trunk can lead to bark rot, disease, and insect problems. Instead, spread the mulch so it extends a couple of inches from the base of the tree in a layer approximately three to four inches deep. Make sure it is higher at the outside edges. The saucer shape will keep the mulch away from the tree and help hold and distribute water to the tree's root system.
- Avoid over applying mulch. Spreading mulch too thick can cause roots to grow shallow and make them more susceptible to death during extended dry periods.
- Use woody or bark mulches in areas where you won't be doing a lot digging, e.g., around trees and in flower beds. Lighter mulch material such as straw, which is easily worked into the soil, is better suited for vegetable gardens where replanting may be common place.

The application of mulch certainly adds a completed look to your landscape. Aesthetically, it just finishes off a focus area; however, its greater value is in the benefits it offers to the hidden roots it covers.

What's Happening:

Tuesday, Nov. 21, Cannington Horticultural Society, *Birch Wreath Workshop with Scott Turner*, (material fee/ registration), Cannington Baptist Church, 7:30 pm
Monday, Dec. 4, Cannington Horticultural Society, *AGM and Photo Show*, Cannington Baptist Church, 7:30 pm